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ARAB TIMES



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Futile attempt to land in Beirut: 55 hostages in danger 'if demands not met'

Hijacked plane flies to Cyprus from Iran



The KAC Jumbo jet circling over Beirut. (Reuter wirephoto)

LARNACA, Cyprus, April 8, (Agencies): A hijacked Kuwaiti airliner with 55 hostages on board landed at Larnaca airport in Cyprus today and airport authorities agreed to refuel it.

But airport sources said the hijackers refused three pleas to release passengers held since the Boeing 747 was seized on a flight to Kuwait from Bangkok on Tuesday.

Authorities allowed the plane to land in Cyprus after it circled Beirut airport, controlled by Syrian troops, for hours in a futile attempt to land there.

Agreed

The Syrians fired two warning shots as the pilot, saying he was under direct threat from the pistol-wielding hijackers, pleaded that he was running out of fuel and would be forced to crash.

Airport sources at Larnaca said officials had agreed to provide 10,000 gallons of fuel. They told the hijackers more fuel was not available because of the

Greek Orthodox Easter holiday. Asked how much fuel the plane had, the pilot said: "I have zero, zero readings on all tanks."

"Please give us all you can," the pilot said. It was not clear if they (hijackers) intended to fly out again.

The control tower official, who did not want to be identified, said ground crews were nervous about approaching the plane to refuel it and provide it with generators for air conditioning. He said the release of "some" passengers would reassure them.

Shorted

But a hijacker promised that they would be safe.

"I'll never forget this, thank you," shouted the captain of the plane when an air traffic controller in Larnaca told him he was cleared to land.

A "state of emergency" was declared at Larnaca airport. Foreign Minister George Iakovou arrived at the facility to try to establish contact with the hijackers.

The plane, with a tail-light

illuminating the blue-and-white Kuwait Airways emblem, was parked off the runway about 200 metres (yards) from the main terminal.

Blinds were drawn in the passenger section and the cockpit was in darkness.

One hijacker told Cypriot officials that Kuwait had to free the 17 prisoners, "otherwise the passengers and the aircraft are exposed to extreme danger."

"We are trying to release our innocent prisoners. This is our main belief. We are continuing until martyrdom or victory," he said.

Diverted

The hijackers initially diverted the plane to Mashhad in north-east Iran. It left there for Beirut earlier today.

The captives include three members of Kuwait's ruling family.

Airport sources said Larnaca ground control appealed to the hijackers to release hostages on humanitarian grounds in return for Cyprus' gesture in allowing

the airliner to land.

Responding to the Larnaca release plea, one hijacker said they appreciated the Cypriot act in allowing them to land, but "we remind the Kuwaiti authorities that we are highly serious."

He identified himself on the plane's radio as "the KU-422 hijacker." KU-422 was the flight number of the jet.

The hijacker said: "We're sorry we cannot do that. We are not just terrorists. We have a just demand about our 17 people in Kuwait."

Crash

Special Cypriot forces were deployed on the tarmac near the airliner.

It had circled Beirut airport for nearly four hours, with the pilot and passengers begging desperately to land. But Syrian Army officers flatly refused permission.

At one point, the hijackers threatened to crash it and the darkened plane swooped low over the blacked-out airport several times before turning out

to sea for Cyprus.

Iran's national news agency Irna said the Iranians let the plane leave Mashhad after three days there after hijackers fired warning shots, threw a grenade from the aircraft and said they would blow it up unless obstacles were removed from the runway.

During protracted negotiations at Mashhad, the hijackers freed 57 other passengers and crew in three batches.

Initially, Cyprus closed airports both in Larnaca and Paphos, on the island's western coast, refusing to receive the aircraft which came from Mashhad, in northeast Iran.

But after Lebanon and Syria also refused to allow it to land, the captain pleaded for landing permission, saying he was out of fuel. "This is a real emergency," he kept repeating.

At 5.30 pm Cyprus time (1430 GMT) the captain said he had three hours of fuel left, sources at Larnaca airport said.

At Beirut airport, run by Syrian troops, the control tower

(Continued on Page 2)

Air pirates are Hezbollah men

BEIRUT, April 8, (Reuters): Hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner are Lebanese members of the Hezbollah, a senior Muslim security source said today.

The source, close to Muslim radicals, said 37 Hezbollah men left the Shi'ite southern suburbs of Beirut for Syria on Tuesday and flew to Iran on Wednesday to relieve the hijackers.

There was no immediate way of confirming the report independently, but the source has proved reliable in the past.

Arabic-speaking gunmen, said to number up to 10, forced the Boeing 747 to Mashhad in north-east Iran on Tuesday and demanded the release of 17 militants jailed in Kuwait.

Demands

The source said the hijackers were followers of the same group of Hezbollah officials using the name Islamic Jihad, a clandestine group holding two American and three French hostages. It also demands the release of the 17.

The hijackers and kidnapers come from the Ain Al-Dilbe area in the (Beirut) suburbs where their leaders live. They are from the same clan of people using the name Islamic Jihad to demand freedom for the 17, he said.

Hezbollah has repeatedly denied links to kidnappings.

The source said some of the hostage-takers and hijackers had relatives and friends among the 17 jailed Arabs, whom Kuwait has repeatedly refused to free.

Gunmen who hijacked an American Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane to Beirut in June

1985 also demanded the release of the 17, convicted of a series of political bombings in 1983.

The source said the 37 Hezbollah members, who travelled to Damascus with fake Iranian and other passports, were believed to have relieved the hijackers — in the same way that gunmen in Beirut relieved the original hijackers of the TWA aircraft.

Switches

Several switches of hijackers and a resupply of weapons were reported during the first stages of that hijack drama, which lasted nearly a month. An American passenger US Navy diver Robert Stetham, was shot dead.

They decided to land the jet in Iran because "they knew that they would be safe there," he said.

"If the incident ends peacefully they know they will not be jailed but will be allowed to return to Beirut and they are sure that the Iranians will not storm the plane," he said.

The source said the hijacking was also linked to tension between Iran, which he said had recently taken direct control of some hostages in Lebanon, and the kidnappers.

The hijackers were seeking to embarrass Tehran for excluding the issue of the 17 Arabs from negotiations with Paris for the release of the three French hostages held by Islamic Jihad, he added.

Arab Times has reported that four accomplices of the hijackers have been arrested in Bangkok and they belong to the Hezbollah.

Sheikh Saad postpones Saudi visit

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has postponed his visit to Saudi Arabia which was to commence today, due to the hijacking of the Kuwait Airways plane.

Sheikh Saad yesterday phoned Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and briefed him on the latest developments of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

Sheikh Saad apologised and regretted the postponement due to "these developments."

He said he looked forward to visiting Saudi Arabia at the first opportunity.

Prince Abdullah strongly condemned the act and "fully understood the circumstances which forced the postponement of the visit."

Hijackers kept changing clothes

By Lima Al Khalafawi

"I THOUGHT I was having a nightmare," one of the released passengers, Leila Noman Abdulla, said, explaining that the cabin lights were dim and most of the passengers were asleep when the hijackers struck. Leila said she awoke on hearing a loud noise, and then saw men, some wearing masks, standing in the first class section ordering the passengers to move to the economy class.

She quickly realised the men were hijackers.

She said the hijackers were armed with pistols and one was holding a grenade, and they made all the passengers move to the rear of the economy class.

Wanted

She said the hijackers whispered to each other in Arabic and English. They did not call out names when they wanted to talk, but whistled to attract their companions' attention.

Leila said that the hijackers kept changing their clothes to give the impression that the gang consisted of more members than it really did.

When Leila wanted some medicine from her handbag, she was escorted to the first class cabin by one of the hijackers. When she got there she was surprised to see a member of the gang going through her handbag and learnt he was checking her nationality from her passport.

Uncertain

She said she was the last female passenger to be released because the hijackers were uncertain about her nationality. They finally decided to let her go because she was a woman.

She said all the passengers were quiet and self-controlled. They were also very sleepy due to the lack of fresh air.

The hijackers ordered the passengers to raise their hands whenever they needed anything. Trips to the toilet were made under the escort of one of the gang, and passengers were given only two minutes in the toilet.

She said that male passengers had their hands tied behind their backs for three hours at a time. They were then untied for a while before being tied up again.

Leila added the hijackers kept saying they only wanted justice and didn't want to harm innocent people.

A KAC cabin staff, Mohammed Al Dech, said the passengers were very tense on the first day of

(Continued on Page 4)

Delegation leaves

A KUWAITI Foreign Ministry delegation left last night for Cyprus, airline officials said.

Kuwait Airways spokesman Abdullah Al Nafeesi said the government plane left around 11:20 pm (2020 GMT) for the two-and-a-half-hour flight to Larnaca.

Nafeesi said food had been sent to the plane in Larnaca and the passengers and crew were reported to be in good condition.

49 brought back from Mashhad

Ordeal ends for 57 passengers

FORTY-NINE passengers and crew released from the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner arrived in Kuwait yesterday morning looking physically fit but overcome with fatigue. Some of them were obviously distraught by their ordeal after the plane was commandeered by Arabic-speaking gunmen on Tuesday morning.

The hijackers released 57 passengers. It was not immediately known what happened to the other eight.

Reporters had a brief glimpse of the freed hostages before they were whisked off by authorities to the VIP lounge where they had a brief meeting with diplomats who later said the passengers were on "a high" and very relieved but also deeply concerned about the fate of those still held captive on the hijacked airliner.

Airport sources said they touched down at 4.52 am (0152 GMT) in a Kuwait Airways Boeing 727 after a refuelling stop in Bahrain, the sources said.

Freud

Those freed include a Jordanian man with heart trouble, 24 women and 32 men of various nationalities. The Jordanian was released first and the men last.

Kuwait Airways said two other Boeing 727s were on standby.

Tehran Radio said those freed were nine Thais, four Pakistanis, three Austrians, three Syrians, three Egyptians, two West Germans, two Irish nationals, 22 Britons, a Palestinian and one

(Continued on Page 2)



Memon, one of the released passengers, being warmly greeted by friends and relatives. (Photo by Saeed Al Khaldi)

Security measures lax in Bangkok

By Jadranka Porter

AHMED Nisar Memon, a freed Pakistani hostage, who arrived in Kuwait yesterday morning, said that security measures at Bangkok airport were lax.

Memon said that personal and baggage check up was done incompetently at Bangkok airport despite the use of X-ray machines and there was no body search before boarding the aircraft. Speaking of his ordeal yesterday evening he said that the hijackers alternatively acted as "nice guys and bad guys" maintaining the tension and tight discipline on the hijacked airliner.

Apologised

He said that one of the hijackers apologised to all passengers released for the distress they have caused them and for the loss of personal belongings.

"We came with clean hands and we shall leave this flight with clean hands. We have to achieve our objectives. Your possessions

will still be on the aircraft when we leave it," they said," recalls Memon.

His overriding fear stemmed from the initial impression that the Pakistanis on the flight, of whom there were four including Memon's wife, may be singled out as victims.

"I could hear them ask: 'Which nationality, which nationality'."

"When I said Pakistani, his response was 'Ah, come.' It did not feel good," said Memon. He was worried for the safety of his wife from whom he was initially separated. "It felt like being in a black box," he said.

He was greatly relieved when she was released but another chilling moment came when some 24 hours later in the middle of the night he was woken up and taken to the front of the aircraft together with some other passengers.

"I thought then: they will either execute us or release us," he recalled.

He feared the worst.

"They opened the door and we felt the cool air and saw the floodlights. As we walked down the stairs I read the big sign 'Mashhad Airport.' That was the first time I knew where we were."

He and other released men were taken to a hotel where they were well-treated.

Among the most gratifying moments was when the next morning he heard a knock on the door and his wife appeared in the doorway.

Organised

He thought there were more than six hijackers aged between 20 and 30. "They were slim and wore masks which appeared to have been made of small pillowcases. They were well organised and established a tight discipline. Everything was happening according to a well worked out plan," Memon said.

The hijackers carried small silver coloured pistols and one carried a hand grenade with no pin in it.

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Kuwait holds Iran responsible

KUWAIT said yesterday it held Iran fully responsible for the consequences of letting the hijacked plane leave Mashhad airport.

A Kuwait Foreign Ministry official said: "Kuwait held Iran fully responsible for all problems that might ensue."

"Despite assurances from the Iranian government to Kuwait and to leaders of a number of friendly countries that it would not allow the plane to leave Mashhad airport, Kuwait has learned that the plane left Mashhad."

"Kuwait has not given a permission to the Iranian authorities for allowing the plane to leave the airport."

The official noted that the plane took off at 2:15 pm Kuwait time after Iranian authorities refuelled it.

While expressing Kuwait's

"strong regret" over the behaviour of the Iranian government, the official stressed that the permission given to the hijackers to leave, ignored Kuwait's clear position which was repeatedly relayed to the Iranian government.

The source added that Kuwait had also repeatedly expressed appreciation for Iran's efforts to end "this tragic incident."

Allowed

Kuwait said on Thursday it opposed the take off of the airliner from Mashhad, and said it held Iran responsible for dealing with the situation according to international law.

Kuwait's opposition to the hijacked plane being allowed to leave Iran was conveyed to the Iranian charge d'affaires in

(Continued on Page 4)

Document to be signed by April 14

Afghan accord concluded

GENEVA, April 8, (Agencies): An agreement on Afghanistan providing for the withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops there has been concluded and will be signed no later than April 14, UN mediator Diego Cordovez announced today.

"The documents are now finalised and open for signature," he told a news conference in Geneva where talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States have been going on since March 2.

"One of the points on which we have not yet an agreement is on the date for the signature," he said, but he added: "It will not be later than the 14th."

Cordovez told reporters later

that the Soviet Union would begin pulling out its forces on May 15 and finish within nine months, meaning Feb 15, 1989.

However, he said Moscow had also informed Washington the withdrawal would be completed even earlier, by the end of this year.

In response to US demands, Moscow agreed that half of the soldiers would leave in the first three months.

A commission of 12 UN military and civilian observers will monitor the accord on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border, Cordovez added.

Radio Moscow reported that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev confirmed the May 15 troop

withdrawal during a speech to Communist Party officials in the Soviet city of Tashkent where he met with Afghan leader Najib.

Both leaders said yesterday that obstacles to an agreement had been cleared and that the accord was ready to be signed.

As well as the Soviet troop withdrawal, the settlement calls for non-interference in Afghanistan by outside parties.

But there are no provisions for a ceasefire to end the nine-year-old war between troops of the Soviet-backed Kabul regime and Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas.

The conflict has caused the deaths of one million Afghans

(Continued on Page 2)

Baghdad bombed, claims Tehran

NICOSIA, April 8, (Agencies): Iraq said it fired four missiles into Iranian cities today.

On Thursday Iran said its warplanes sneaked through Iraqi radar into Baghdad and bombed a military base and oil refinery, killing or wounding dozens of Iraqi soldiers.

It was the first reported bombing of the Iraqi capital in three years. Iraq denied the city was hit yesterday, but the ferocity of Iraqi attacks later gave some credence to the Iranian claims.

Both sides bombed each other's cities and towns yesterday with missiles and reported scores of civilian casualties.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said Tehran retaliated by firing two missiles into Baghdad, another two into the northern city of Mosul and one into Al

Amarah farther south.

The Iraqi News Agency confirmed one of the strikes on Baghdad and said civilians were killed. It also said Iraqi civilians were killed when Iranian long-range artillery shelled Iraqi border cities.

A reporter in Tehran confirmed there was a loud explosion in the pre-dawn hours near the city's railway station.

Raided

INA, said one missile each was fired into Tehran, the holy city of Qom, the central city of Isfahan and the northwestern city of Tabriz.

The agency also reported Iraqi warplanes raided a "large maritime target" last night, a reference to an oil tanker. There was no immediate confirmation from Gulf shipping sources.

Iran's Irna confirmed that missiles hit Tehran and Isfahan. It said they landed in residential areas, but gave no casualty toll. It also said Iraqi warplanes raided several Iranian cities, but gave no further details.

The Iranian agency said Iranian planes bombed military targets in northern Iraq, but Iraq's INA said the planes bombed residential neighbourhoods in the northern city of Amadiya, killing civilians.

A UN team arrived in Baghdad from Geneva to investigate Iraqi allegations that Iran used chemical weapons in a March 30-31 battle in northeastern Iraq. Iran accused Iraq of using chemical weapons in the same battle.

(Continued on Page 2)

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with light variable to light to moderate southeasterly wind and slight chance of rain.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 5.30 am, 3.00 pm
Low water: 10.00 am, 10.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.29 am
Sunset: 6.12 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 30°C 86°F
Ahmad: 27°C 81°F
Falka: 28°C 82°F
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 14°C 57°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Falka: 18°C 64°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 30°C 86°F
Ahmad: 26°C 82°F
Falka: 28°C 82°F
Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 43 per cent
Ahmad: 42 per cent
Falka: 50 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 50 per cent
Ahmad: 59 per cent
Falka: 65 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Simon draws criticism for remaining in the race

Dukakis, Jackson call for unity

NEW YORK, April 8, (AP): Democratic presidential front-runners Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson are preaching unity in the volatile political atmosphere of the New York primary campaign, but Sen. Albert Gore Jr. says he will persist in "drawing a contrast" with his opponents.

Hope

The three are in hot pursuit of New York's 255 delegates, more than 10 per cent of the number needed for nomination. The April 19 primary is the largest so far in this campaign season.

A fourth Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, suspended his campaign yesterday — and drew

sharp criticism from Jackson for technically remaining in the race to keep control of the 47 delegates he will get as a result of his Illinois primary victory.

If Simon dropped out, those delegates would go to Jackson, who finished second in Illinois.

"I would hope that in time Mr. Simon ... now that he has made the decision to leave the race will leave so honourably, and hide behind no technicalities to block those as my delegates which in fact belong to me," said Jackson.

Vice President George Bush, considered a sure bet for the Republican presidential nomination even by his only remaining rival, Pat Robertson, was heading for Texas to wind up the fund-raising phase of his campaign.

paign.

Robertson, who has said he will not campaign in New York, dropped his secret service protection yesterday but an aide said the former television evangelist would remain an active candidate up to the Republican convention in August.

Barbara Gattullin said Robertson hoped to bring "a strong conservative message" to the convention.

The Democratic candidates crossed paths often in New York, appearing at forums sponsored by the state party and the democracy project, a Liberal-oriented group.

They often found it difficult to escape the shadows of Gov. Mario Cuomo and New York

city Mayor Ed Koch.

"Who cares what ... Mario Cuomo says?" responded Cuomo when pressed about whether he would endorse one of the contenders. The influential governor has been mentioned as a possible draft candidate if the convention is unable to decide on one of the declared candidates.

Request

Cuomo also has advised Gore to tone down criticism of his rivals — a request seconded by party chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr.

"I spoke a year ago about the importance of resolving to keep the debate and the dialogue positive and not involved in any negative campaigning," Kirk said.

Train rolls away without its crew

LONDON, April 8, (AP): A runaway train with no crew or passengers rolled four miles (6.5 km) along a main commuter line early yesterday before the driver of another train clambered aboard and brought it to a halt, a rail spokesman said.

The four-coach electric train rolled away from the platform at Three Bridges station on the main line between London and the south coast city of Brighton as its changeover crew chatted with a supervisor in his office.

When they realised it had left without them, they raised the alarm and the runaway's progress was monitored as the train ran north toward London. It was brought to a halt 36 minutes later at Horley, 23 miles (37 km) south of London, British Rail said.

"It had apparently taken it into its mind to go off on its own," a southern region spokesman added. He was not identified, in keeping with British practice.

Waited

The driver of a newspaper train travelling in the opposite direction waited for it on the platform at Horley, and as it rolled slowly past, he climbed into the driver's cab and managed to stop it," the spokesman said.

The train, which set off at 3:52 am (0252 GMT), went through Gatwick station at about 20 mph (32 km/h) but was moving at walking pace when the other driver managed to halt it.

49 brought back from Mashhad

Ordeal ends for 57 passengers

(Continued from Page 1)

The eighteen Britons arrived exhausted but cheerful at London's Heathrow Airport from Kuwait.

Interviewed shortly after their arrival in London, the Britons said their captors treated them well but spoke of fear aboard the hijacked Boeing 747.

"They always had the hand grenade in the one hand and a gun in the other. There was always menace but they didn't actually maltreat anybody ... in fact quite the contrary, they were very attentive," said David Carew Jones, a 32-year-old market researcher.

Susan Silcock, 21, said the hijackers seemed determined to die for their demands. Silcock, who said the Britons toasted their return home with champagne all the way from Kuwait to London, said the young hijackers were cutting holes in pillow cases to make masks and two of them remained masked all the time.

She could not tell their nationalities but another passenger, Mark Appleby, said the hijackers told him they were Kuwaiti nationals.

Silcock said a Kuwaiti passenger had told her he had only flown twice and had been hijacked both times — twice in three years.

"He just couldn't believe it. Hijacked for a second time and the second time he'd flown," Silcock said.

Suzanne Armstrong, a 23-year-old research worker from London, said the hijackers were calm and rational at all times and described them as "very determined young men."

"They were exceedingly

organised ... they knew what they were doing. The overall impression I got was that everything was very well planned," she said, appearing relaxed but tired.

"Conditions aboard the plane are really terrible, appalling," the Mail of London quoted Susan Carew Jones, 35, as saying earlier by telephone from Iran.

"There's very little oxygen," she said.

She said in a BBC interview that the hijacking began as passengers on board the jumbo jet slept.

"Suddenly there was a lot of shouting and we saw the terrorists with grenades and we were told to put our hands on our heads and look down," she said.

"When you see people with grenades and guns, you have to fear for your life."

After 15 to 20 minutes, the passengers were "herded" together in one section of the plane and told to keep their hands on their heads until the plane landed at Mashhad airport.

Irishman Kieran O'Kelly said: "The hijackers are very determined young men who are quite willing to die. I am concerned for the safety of the hostages left on board."

China elects a general as President

BEIJING, April 8, (AP): China's most powerful general, Yang Shangkun, was elected President today in one-candidate balloting by a national legislature session opened for the first time to foreign reporters.

The move, which had been widely anticipated, puts a close ally of senior leader Deng Xiaoping and staunch supporter of Deng's economic reforms in the largely ceremonial but highly visible presidency.

Deng, 84, as expected, retained his role as chairman of the central military commission. As in the election for President, the 2,883 delegates of the National People's Congress who voted were not given a choice of candidates.

The legislature also elected reform veteran Wan Li, who had been vice-premier, to head the Congress' standing committee.

It was the first time foreign reporters were allowed to watch selection of communist China's leaders.

Shouting

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Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal makes a point to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after her arrival in Ankara. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Thatcher calls for a Cyprus solution

ANKARA, April 8, (AP): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today that both Greek and Turkish sides on Cyprus should work out a compromise to end the island's divisions.

"It is the two communities themselves that have to negotiate and get together under the good offices of United Nations secretary-general," Mrs Thatcher told a press conference before flying to Istanbul on the third day of her official visit to Turkey.

She added that that compromise has to be made by each side to achieve "a constitution that will unify the two communities under a federal model."

Display

A former British colony, the Mediterranean island has been divided into northern Turkish and southern Greek sectors since an invasion by Turkey 14 years ago following a Greek-backed coup.

"It is not easy, there is a real test of best will," Mrs Thatcher

said. Britain, along with Greece and Turkey, is a co-guarantor of Cyprus under a 1960 treaty which granted the island independence from British rule.

During the press conference, Ozal left unanswered a question on whether he would withdraw some of the Turkish troops from the island to display goodwill.

Negotiations between the two communities carried out under the auspices of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar have been deadlocked for the past three years as the Greek Cypriots rejected a UN plan calling for a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal Cyprus.

Mrs Thatcher called the UN plan "extremely valuable." But she added that it could be modified.

"It is better not to put any constraints at this point of time," she concluded.

Mrs Thatcher expressed hope that Turkey's application, made a year ago, for full membership in the European Economic Community would be accepted.

Scattered protests in occupied areas

TEL AVIV, April 8, (Reuter): Palestinians staged scattered protests today but the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were relatively quiet despite threats by Jewish settlers to avenge the death of an Israeli girl.

The Army originally said Tirza Porat, 15, was stoned and beaten to death on Wednesday in the West Bank village of Beita by Palestinians who attacked a group of hiking Jewish children.

But a military spokesman said today that an Army autopsy found Porat had been shot in the head by the same weapon settlers

had used to kill two Palestinians during the clash.

"She received a gunshot to her head, but also a blow from a stone or something sharp. She could have been killed by either," he said. "We cannot tell. It is still under investigation."

Palestinian sources said troops today blew up five houses in Beita belonging to Palestinians suspected of inciting the clash in which Porat died.

She was the first Israeli civilian to die in the four-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

At least 135 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in the violence, the worst in 20 years of Israeli occupation.

The Army destroyed another five homes in Beita yesterday.

In Nablus near Beita, troops shot and wounded a Palestinian youth today following weekly prayers, Arab sources said.

They said another protester was shot and seriously wounded in Faqou's village near Jenin.

The Army said it could not confirm the reports, but was checking them.

In Ramallah, troops used tear

gas and made to disperse about 100 protesters who gathered after Friday prayers, eyewitnesses said.

A handful of Arab children threw stones at Israeli police after prayers in the Al Aqsa mosque on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, but the protest ended with no injuries, eyewitnesses said.

Despite the scattered protests, the West Bank and Gaza were relatively quiet for Friday, when Palestinians usually hold demonstrations against Israeli rule.

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In Ramallah, troops used tear

Hijacked plane flies to Cyprus from Iran

(Continued from Page 1)

told the captain as he tried to land there: "If you try to land by force, the plane will be fired on." The captain said he would then have to land in the sea, with authorities on Cyprus, 120 miles (193 kilometres) to the northwest, also refusing to receive them.

"Do whatever you want," the controller said, according to Beirut airport sources who requested anonymity. "Crash on the tarmac or in the sea ... we shall not let you land here."

The captain said: "A gun is pointed to my head. I request landing permission to land to refuel."

"We have been for 14 years under gunfire," an airport official answered back, apparently referring to Lebanon's civil war.

The Beirut airport sources said a control tower official radioed back saying: "With all due respect to all families, permit me to say that all the Lebanese suffer heart ailments (from the civil war). Do not try to talk to me sentimentally."

Fire engine trucks, passenger buses and other vehicles parked on Beirut airport's two runways to prevent the plane from landing.

Iran originally refused to allow the plane to take off again, blocking runways at the Mashhad airport. "Iranian officials have told the hijackers that all the airports in the world will be closed to them," the Islamic Republic News Agency, said.

But the hijackers brought a man to the top of stairway and fire three warning shots, then tossed a grenade out of the door, the agency reported.

It said a passenger was forced into the cockpit and beaten.

The half dozen gunmen first threatened to kill a passenger, then said they would blow the plane up, if they weren't allowed to take off.

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Afghan accord concluded

(Continued from Page 1)

and created five million refugees now living in Pakistan and Iran.

Cordovez also said all parties had agreed to push efforts to form a new Afghan government, which has been a paramount concern of the Mujahedeen as well as Pakistan.

"At this crucial stage, all concerned will therefore promote the endeavours of the Afghan people to work out arrangements for a broad-based government and will support and facilitate that process," the UN-envoy stated.

The four sides authorised the statement, he added.

The announcement by an obviously satisfied Cordovez followed statements yesterday by the Soviet, Afghan and Pakistani leaders that obstacles to the accord had been removed.

Negotiations over the past six years had been bogged down recently by a superpower dispute over the supply of military aid to their allies, but that appeared to have been resolved.

Hamilton, 69, dies

LONDON, April 8, (AP): Sir Denis Hamilton, a former chairman of the Reuters news agency and a leading figure in the British newspaper industry, died yesterday, his family announced. He was 69.

The announcement said Hamilton, onetime editor-in-chief of Times Newspapers Ltd., which includes the Times of London, died at his home in London after a long illness. The cause of death was not given.

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Shultz meets Gemayel

LARNACA, April 8, (Reuters): US Secretary of State George Shultz made an unpublished stop here today to confer with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel about changes in his country's constitution.

Shultz met Gemayel after talks on the subject with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus that the Secretary said had "gone along quite well."

The new US-Syrian effort to end factional discord in Lebanon could provide an opening for the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Nine Americans are among 26 kidnapped foreigners, including US Marine Colonel William Higgins who was abducted on Feb 17 by gunmen near Tyre.

"Clearly a greater sense of authority and order in Lebanon would be a great advantage in our efforts against terrorism on all of its fronts, including the taking of hostages," Shultz said.

He discussed the new US-Syrian initiative for Lebanon at a news conference in Amman at the conclusion of a six-day swing through the Middle East to rally support for a new US peace initiative.

After meeting Gemayel for about an hour at Larnaca airport, Shultz left for Washington.

Shultz returns home ending Mideast shuttle

No one accepts or rejects US plan

AMMAN, April 8, (UPI): US Secretary of State George Shultz ended his Middle East trip today the way it began — with no one accepting or rejecting his peace plan.

Shultz left Jordan to return to Washington from his five-day, five-nation shuttle in which he hoped to persuade the Israelis or the Arabs to agree to his plan in principle.

Before leaving, he said at a news conference that he was not dissuaded by the reactions to his peace plan.

"What were we looking for? A positive spirit to this peace initiative, and we found it. And everyone wants us to continue."

"We go on," Shultz said. "We have shifted gears. We are now in a forward gear. People have started to engage the substance of the proposal."

"The road ahead is tough but we will travel it with determination."

"While I think we made some headway on this trip, you

measure headway in inches, not feet, yards or miles."

Shultz said he would personally return to the region again to push the plan, but he did not know when.

Negotiations
The proposal calls for an international peace conference to launch two sets of direct Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The first would establish limited self-rule for the 1.5 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They would be followed by a second round of talks to determine the final status of the same occupied territories, seized by Israel from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 war.

Jordan and Syria want an international peace conference that could act as a referee. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir wants only direct Arab-Israeli talks and no conference of nations that he fears would gang up on Israel.

As a compromise, the Shultz plan calls for the international conference to be only a vehicle to get to direct talks. It would not be able to veto or impose solutions.

So far no one is buying it. But all of the leaders in the Middle East have urged him to continue trying to find a solution.

On Thursday, Shultz said of his mission: "I'll leave with the skeleton (his peace plan) intact and a little flesh on it here and there and maybe a little life on the flesh."

"I think it's (this trip's) been worthwhile and we made a little progress here and there. But it comes very hard and slow."

Missiles
Shultz said he will continue to press ahead with the plan, arguing no one had rejected it outright.

Beginning his Middle East swing last Sunday, Shultz held talks with leaders in Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

He added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "has reservations, particularly as to the international conference, and he expressed those."

In Thursday's meeting with King Fahd, Shultz apparently failed to resolve the issue of Saudi Arabia's newly acquired Chinese missiles.

The meeting was Shultz's first with Fahd since the missiles were discovered in January and made public last month.

Speaking after two hours of talks with Fahd, Shultz said, "the discussion I think was a satisfactory one but I don't want to go into further detail than that."

But a State Department official who requested anonymity said, "satisfactory means it's still in process with discussions going on. We're still discussing the situation."

The United States wants to inspect the missiles that the Saudis contend are non-nuclear, but Saudi Arabia refused the initial requests.

"They have said non-nuclear in every discussion we've had," the State Department official said after the Shultz-Fahd meeting. "Non today, non tomorrow, non forever. That's non-nuclear today and forever."

It became public knowledge last month that Saudi Arabia purchased Chinese CSS-2-class surface-to-surface missiles that have a range of more than 1,000 miles — within easy reach of Israel and Iran.

Saudi Arabia apparently made the deal in 1985 and shipped the missiles into the country in such a way as to hide them from US spy satellites, which finally discovered them this January.

Shamir expressed Israel's deep concern about the missiles to President Reagan when he visited Washington in mid-March.

The Saudis said they want the missiles because of the widespread use Iran is making of missiles in its war with Iraq.

Amal wins control of south Lebanon

NABATIYEH, April 8, (AP): The Syrian-backed Shiite Muslim Amal militia held undisputed control of south Lebanon today after a four-day showdown with Iranian-backed rivals in which 62 people were killed and 150 wounded, police reported.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstream Amal militia held all major towns and villages in the south and their supply routes, police said.

Diehard fighters of the fundamentalist Hezbollah were holed up in only three hamlets west of the market town of Nabatiyeh with mediators negotiating terms for their surrender and safe conduct, police said.

Amal's triumph reflected Syria's determination to crush a growing challenge by Iran to its role as the main power broker in Lebanon.

Pocket
Syria has been alarmed at Hezbollah's widening influence and its efforts to seize control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect.

Police said that one of the hamlets where Hezbollah was still holding out was Jibsheet, its main stronghold in the south and 24 kilometres southwest of the provincial capital of Sidon.

Amal fighters surrounded it, along with neighbouring Sharkieh and Hounin Al Fouka. Police said. Berri's fighters were expected to occupy the villages once Hezbollah evacuated them.

Police said fighting ended soon after midnight Thursday, when Amal fighters crushed the last major pocket of Hezbollah resistance in house-to-house fighting in the coastal town of Ghaziyeh.

The town, 8 km south of Sidon, controls the main coastal highway that links predominantly Shiite south Lebanon and with the rest of the country.

Amal and Hezbollah accused each other of massacring captured fighters. An Amal communiqué said 11 of its men were found hanged in a Hezbollah centre in Ghaziyeh after the village was captured.

Hezbollah earlier accused Amal militiamen of stopping a convoy of Red Cross ambulances near the southern village of Aagbiyeh and killing three of their wounded fighters as they lay on stretchers.

Telephone reports from Tyre said thousands of jubilant demonstrators celebrated Amal's victory by parading the streets of the city, chanting "Hezbollah, take your dogs and go to hell" and "Yes to Amal, no to Hezbollah."

Five killed in riot over extradition of drug baron

TEGUCIGALPA, April 8, (Reuters): Four people were killed in a gun battle at the US embassy and another burnt to death yesterday, during a riot over the extradition from Honduras of alleged drug baron Juan Ramon Mata.

Radio stations said four students died in the shooting, a girl was burned to death in a car and several people wounded. There was no official confirmation of the death toll. The main hospital said it received two corpses.

Heavily-armed riot police stood guard outside the embassy as firemen doused flames that spread from the consulate building over the road after last night's three-hour riot, the most violent anti-US protest in Honduras.

Appeal
"The government of the republic makes an appeal for citizens to remain calm," a government spokesman said in a statement read on national radio. Small bands of protesters roamed the streets of the capital Tegucigalpa in defiance of truck-

loads of police. Witnesses said shooting broke out at the embassy after rioters in a crowd of 1,500 broke into the consulate and set it afire after stealing typewriters, fans and other office equipment.

They said the firing seemed to come from inside the consulate and rioters responded with pistol fire as the crowd scattered. A US embassy spokesman said there were no shots from embassy guards and no casualties among embassy staff.

The demonstrators, earlier broke windows and set fire to more than 20 cars in an embassy car park.

Rioters also threatened foreign reporters, with some saying they would kill any Americans. Reuter photographer Juana Anderson was hit by a stray rock and needed stitches in her head.

The government statement defended the expulsion of Mata, a Honduran citizen, to the United States, even though the constitution bars extradition of Honduran nationals.

No-smoking Day observed in Asia

TOKYO, April 8, (Reuters): Asian non-smokers struck a mild blow for cleaner air on Thursday on No-smoking Day, sponsored by the World Health Organisation, in a region where smoking rarely carries the same social stigma as in the West.

The World Health Organisation, which declared its 40th birthday a tobacco-free day, said about 2.5 million people die each year from tobacco-related diseases.

In Tokyo, the Ministry of Health and Welfare removed all ashtrays from its premises, presumably to be replaced later.

The world No-smoking Day put China's 300 million-strong Army of tobacco-lovers under siege, but smoke was rising from the battlelines as many ignored calls to give up the habit.

In India, there was little sign of a serious official effort to reduce smoking.

Amid missile attacks

Iranians go to polls

TEHRAN, April 8, (AP): Iranians voted for a new parliament today, hours after Iraqi missiles crashed into their cities, in an election that could help determine the course of the Islamic revolution.

The nation's 87-year-old revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, voted at an open-air election station close to his home in the northern Tehran suburb of Jamaran.

State-run television showed the black-turbaned leader dropping his ballot into the box, followed by his son Ahmad, in the third elections to the 270-member Majlis since the 1979 revolution.

Iranian leaders earlier expressed fears that the Iraqis would blitz Tehran and other major cities to disrupt the polling. The 20-25 million voters will elect deputies for a four-year term.

A loud explosion, originating in the area near a city railroad station, rocked the city at 3:40 am (0010 GMT) just hours before the 30,000 polling stations

Corruption rising in Pakistan, admits Zia

ISLAMABAD, April 8, (Reuters): President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said on Thursday, corruption in Pakistan's government was spreading like an epidemic.

He told the annual opening of parliament the best way of stamping out graft in this Muslim nation of 100 million people would be to apply traditional Islamic laws more vigorously.

"People are fed up with corruption," Zia said. His speech was described by political analysts as a criticism of the three-year-old civilian administration of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

"More than half the complaints people send to my secretariat are about bribery and

favour-seeking ... people say this epidemic was there in the past but no so much as now."

Zia, who seized power in a 1977 military coup, handed over day-to-day affairs of state to Junejo after controversial 1985 elections from which political parties were barred.

Blame

Zia complained that a process of enforcing an Islamic order in Pakistan had been slowed down during the past three years. He blamed bribery on what he called a slow process of justice.

"It has assumed alarming proportions over the past three years. Not only rates of bribery have gone up, people also demand a bribe openly."

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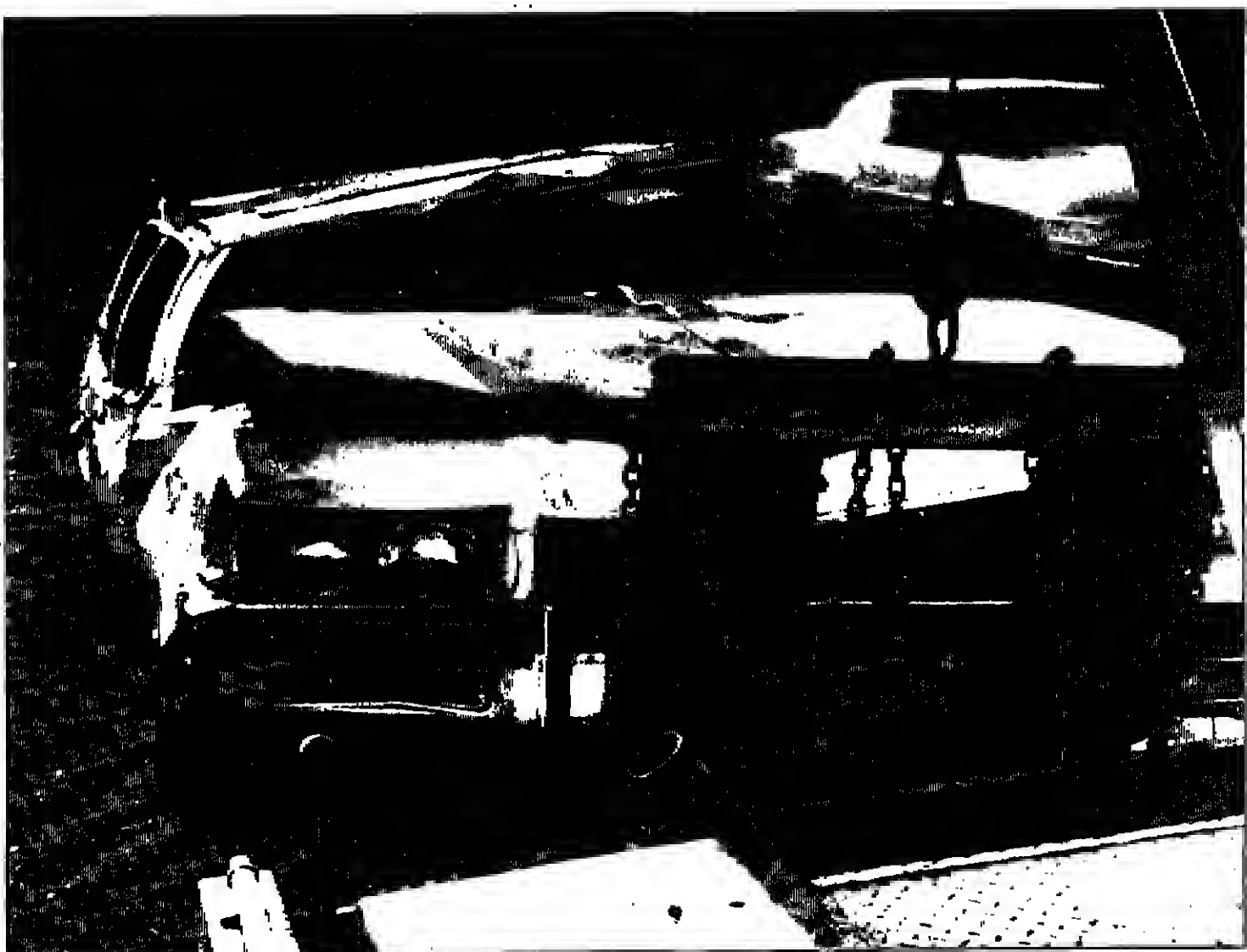
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Amir to open OIC mini-summit

HH the Amir will inaugurate tomorrow the two-day meetings of the bureau of the Fifth Organisation of Islamic Conference and chairmen of the standing committees.

The bureau groups Presidents of Maldives Republic, Ma'moun Abdel Qayoum, of Gabon Omar Bongo, Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan, Kenan Evren of Turkey, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Fall and Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki.

A report for the technical bureau at the Information Ministry said that in accordance with instructions of the Amir, it was decided to commission the supreme preparatory committee at the Fifth Organisation of Islamic Conference to prepare for the coming meetings.

The committee is chaired by Minister of Public Works, Abdul-Rahman Al Houti and groups top government officials, topped by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Al Shaheen and Interior Undersecretary Major General Youssef Al Khorafi.

There will be 217 official and unofficial media and press delegations.

The report noted that Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahab Al Ahmed Al Jaber will hold a press conference Monday evening, during which he will announce the final communiqué.

President Zia-ul-Haq will leave Islamabad for Kuwait today to attend a mini-summit.

Officials said that he would lead the Pakistan delegation at the mini-summit in his capacity as chairman of the OIC standing committee on science and technology.

Some roads to be closed

THE security leadership at the Conference Centre said that it would be closing some roads as of Saturday, on the occasion of holding the meeting of the bureau of the fifth Islamic Conference and chairmen of the standing committees in Kuwait April 10 to 11.

The leadership noted that some roads would be closed and diversions would be made, as of today at intervals coinciding with arrivals and departures of participating delegations in the conference.

It said that roads that would be closed are parts of the Sixth Ring Road, Faisal Highway, Al Safar Highway, adding that those coming from Ahmadi via Al Safar highway and those coming from the airport toward Kuwait city should choose alternative roads.

It said that the first closure will be between 4 and 7 p.m. today, urging drivers to cooperate to guarantee an easy flow of traffic.

Oman's deputy premier ends Austria visit

VIENNA, April 8, (Kuna): Omani Deputy Premier for Security and Defence Affairs Minister, Fahr Bin Taymour Al Saeed today concluded a four-day official visit to Austria.

During his visit, Fahr conferred with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, Defence and Interior Ministers, Robert Lichal and Karl Blecha, respectively, in addition to other ranking officials.

His talks with officials here tackled security matters, including means of combating air piracy, safeguarding civil air transport and passengers safety.

Fahr also discussed means of transferring modern and sophisticated technology to Oman, the possibility of sending Austrian experts to train cadres in the security field, beside military matters.

During a meeting between the Omani official and the Austrian Interior Minister, they condemned the hijack of the Kuwaiti plane, emphasising the importance of enhancing international cooperation in the field of combating air piracy, a government source said.

Elaborate measures taken to protect oil installations

LONDON, April 8, (Kuna): Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed has said that plans have been drawn up between the ministries of Defence and Interior and the National Guards to foster protection of the country's oil installations.

Lessons have been learnt from past experiences and a joint plan has been set up to ensure safety of the oil installations of the country against all possible risks, the minister told the weekly Al Hawadess magazine edition appearing here today.

He also said that a plan has been prepared to defend the coastal belt of the country but did not go into details in his lengthy interview which covered a host of other issues of interest to his country.

After relying on the Almighty for its defence, Kuwait depends on the profound confidence of the political leadership in guaranteeing the security of Kuwait and consolidating the home front, the minister said.

Defended

The Kuwaiti Armed Forces, acting under guidance and directions of HH the Amir, will deter any forces trying to infringe on the sovereignty of the country, he said, adding Kuwait's membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the wider umbrella of the Arab League are added guarantees for safety.

The Kuwaiti Defence Minister said that according to the charter of the GCC, any attack on Kuwait is viewed as an attack on

all six members of the council and will be confronted collectively.

In this connection, he said, the Kuwaiti Army has become highly trained and fully knowledgeable in modern warfare techniques thanks to the Kuwaiti instructors, pointing out that wars are nowadays fought on sophisticated weaponry.

Sheikh Nawaf defended Saudi Arabia's acquisition of the Chinese-made medium-range ballistic missile as warranted right of the kingdom in defending itself.

He denounced Israel's threats to strike the missiles as gross interference in the internal affairs of the kingdom, warning that all the Arab and friendly countries will side with Saudi Arabia if exposed to attacks.

Unity

Turning to the Palestinian popular uprising against the Israeli occupation, the Amir of Bahrain stressed that the uprising "underlines without any doubt, the Palestinian peoples' determination to liberate their land no matter what the sacrifices were and how the Israeli practices were."

Sheikh Issa furthermore, called on Arabs to adopt a unified stand in order to support the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation. He attributed the eruption of the uprising to the atrocities committed by the Israelis against the Palestinians.

The Amir of Bahrain added that time was ripe enough for the Arabs to unify their stands and to agree on a collective plan in order to unveil Israeli deluding approaches and practices. He stressed that "had the Arabs agreed on a common stand, opinion and action, Israel would not have dared to carry on its aggression."

He rhetorically questioned divisions in the Arab world saying

suit and positively respond to peace appeals, reiterating that "the continuation of the Gulf war would benefit no party but the enemies of Arabs and Islam."

ing that "we no more want slogans and rhetorics... but what we need is sincere work in order to solve our problems and win the respect of the world public opinion."

Sheikh Issa responding to a question, said that his country supports any Arab gathering to discuss the means of supporting the Palestinian uprising provided that such a gathering would lead to fruitful results. He expressed Bahrain's support for convening a Middle East peace conference "should it seek a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East crisis and allow the Palestinian people to practise their self determination."

Replying to a question, Sheikh Issa expressed hope that the forthcoming summit between US President Reagan and Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev scheduled to be held in Moscow next month "would help the cause of world peace and solve regional problems."

Turning to bilateral relations between Bahrain and Egypt, the Amir of Bahrain praised such relations and expressed the hope that Bahraini-Egyptian relations will further improve at all levels and in various fields.

He disclosed that he looks forward to visiting Egypt soon.

Community Development Centre

DR LATIFA Al Rujaib, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour said the Community Development Centre in Bayan was established to improve the living standards of individuals in Kuwait's society.

She added that the centre coordinates health, cultural and social services for people in the area and provides family counselling. The centre also provides courses in sewing, home economics, typing and first aid for women and offers social care for the handicapped and elderly people.

Dr Latifa added that the centre's auditorium can also be used for wedding parties and other social occasions.

Symposium on productivity

THE Arah Planning Institute today hosts a 4-day symposium on productivity and development horizons in the Arah nation.

The gathering, grouping 26 Arah experts in the field, will explore issues related to the contribution of increased productivity in meeting development plans in the Arab countries.

The symposium is one in a series of activities of the institute's 1988 cultural and scientific programme.

Saudi university seats for Malaysian students

KUALA LUMPUR, April 8, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia has agreed to accept Malaysian students majoring in other disciplines apart from Arabic and Islamic studies provided they meet the qualifying standards set by its universities, Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said today.

Malaysians would be included in the 10 to 15 per cent university seat allocation to foreign students and would receive benefits as any other student, he said.

Trade

Briefing newsmen here on his visits to Saudi Arabia from March 25 to 29 and Oman from April 1 to 3, Abu Hassan said his discussions with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal centred on the need for greater trade and economic cooperation and increased Saudi investment in Malaysia.

Hijacking of Kuwaiti airliner condemned

A SOVIET senior official on Thursday condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, noting that the Soviet Union "condemns such terrorist techniques."

Tazarevich Georgy, Deputy Premier of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, who arrived in Kuwait on Thursday, expressed hope that the ordeal would come to an end peacefully as soon as possible.

Qatar yesterday strongly deplored the skyjacking.

Opposed

Qatar News Agency, quoting an official Qatari source, said that Qatar follows with great concern the news of the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft and the suffering of its passengers.

In Tunis, Arab League Secretary-General, Chadi Klibi, denounced the hijacking of a

Kuwait Airways Corporation airplane.

In an exclusive statement to Kuna, Klibi said, "skyjacking the airplane and holding hostage its passengers is morally rejected and religiously opposed no matter what the motives and the reasons were."

Turkey also condemned the hijacking as a terrorist act.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) expressed concern yesterday over the hijacking.

In New Delhi, the Indian government has further tightened security arrangements for Kuwaiti and Saudi Airlines at Bombay and Delhi airports.

The decision to this effect was taken following hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner.

All incoming and outgoing flights are properly checked by the security personnel.

Security measures lax in Bangkok

(Continued from Page 1)

He did not know where the airliner landed until they had a snack which came with napkins marked Iran Air.

The four Pakistanis arrived to a warm welcome from their friends but there were no Pakistani embassy officials to meet them at the airport.

Memorandum said he was happy that the ordeal for them was over but he was anxious about the other passengers still held hostage in the plane.

Arah Times reporter, Hamid Siddiqui adds: A KAC flight engineer who went to Mashhad aboard a Boeing 727 on Wednesday and returned to Kuwait yesterday morning said that he and his colleagues were taken to a hotel after reaching Iran but were not allowed to go to the airport.

"We were hoping to take over the Boeing 747 in case it was released by the hijackers. But we were confined to the hotel. The Iranian authorities were very strict. The Kuwaiti delegation communicated with the hijackers through the Iranian officials but it was only the Iranians who spoke to the hijackers and we did not know what was being discussed."

Another freed hostage was reported to have said that the hijackers initially treated the non-Arab passengers harshly which he thought was meant to give the Kuwaiti passengers a false sense of security.

the hijacking, but became reconciled to the situation and somewhat relaxed by the second day. He said the hijackers treated passengers reasonably well.

The mother of one of the air-hostesses on the hijacked plane, Mrs Al Houli, said she became alarmed when her daughter was late. She checked with the airline and was told that the flight had been delayed for technical reasons.

She said it was only when she heard the news of the hijacking on the radio that she learnt about her daughter's plight.

She was glad that her daughter was safely back though exhausted by her ordeal.

Mrs Al Houli said her daughter told her that the stewardesses were ordered to serve food and drink to the passengers, but a masked hijacker followed them each time.

She said her daughter had been a stewardess for only two months, but wanted to continue working for Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC).

Kuwait holds Iran ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Kuwait, who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

An official statement said Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Ossaimi told the Iranian diplomat that "Kuwait, while appreciating the continuous efforts of the Iranian brethren to secure the release of the hostages and the hijacked airliner, stresses Iran's full responsibility in dealing with this situation."

"While allowing the airliner (to leave) implies a response to the hijacker's demand and exposes the hostages to more danger, Kuwait emphasises its opposition to the departure of the airliner."

Praising

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah on Thursday sent a message to the Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi praising Iranian efforts.

But the message also reiterated the Kuwaiti stand clearly that the hijacked airliner should not be allowed to leave Mashhad.

One killed in road accident

AN OMANI died after being hit by a car at the Khiran-Zoor intersection on Thursday, and two motorists were rushed to hospital for treatment of injuries caused by the collision of their cars.

There were 23 traffic accidents in Kuwait.

Three accidents took place in the capital, three in Jahra and 15 in Ahmadi.

Omani minister visits UAE

DUBAI, April 8, (Kuna): Omani Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Al-Mu'tasem Bin Hmoud Al Bosaeidi arrived here on an official four-day visit to the UAE.

ROYAL COURT

Cable of thanks

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Sabah yesterday received a cable from justice minister and chairman of the sixth session of the Arab Justice Ministers Conference, in which he expressed thanks for Sheikh Saad's patronage of the meetings.

In a reply cable, the Crown Prince and Premier included his appreciation for this noble gesture, hailing all efforts which contributed to the success of the conference.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Shultz' talks with Mideast leaders will not be fruitful

A KUWAITI paper yesterday affirmed that talks of US Secretary of State George Shultz with Mideast leaders would not be fruitful, unless the American official abandons his three no's: No Palestinian state, no recognition of the PLO and no withdrawal to 1967 borders.

Al Rai Al Aam said in a front-page editorial that chances that the 16-week-old Palestinian uprising would draw the official American sympathy look very slim, hence "Shultz' mission will not produce bright results, as long as the US administration feels no embarrassment in ignoring the daily massacres which unarmoured, camps' residents undergo."

It noted that the US-Israeli settlement team aims, first and foremost, at aborting the uprising and push Palestinians into accepting an unknown plan, favourable to the Zionist entity.

Despite Shultz' attempts to keep contact channels open in order to reach a deal, through which he ends the uprising and spurs Washington's reputation as an ally "to the bone" with Israel, he will not have a chance to save the American credibility, as the US has proven its inability to be neutral in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper underlined.

Kuwait's stand praised

KUWAIT is doing its utmost to avoid involvement in the Iraq-Iran conflict and is of the opinion that security of the region lies in fostering peace among all Gulf countries, Pravda, organ of the Soviet Communist Party said yesterday.

"Kuwait has cordial relations with Iraq but has kept the door open for improved ties with Iran," the daily said, recalling assurances by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahab Al Ahmed that Kuwait would send diplomats to Iran as soon as the war of the cities came to an end which was indicative that "Kuwait has not in any way declared war on Iran."

Pravda said that the recent Iranian gunboat attack on the

Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan and the series of offensives on Kuwait last year including the Iranian missile attacks are an offshoot of the Gulf War "which entered the eighth year last September."

"The renewed flare-up of the war of the cities and the use of long-range missiles and the chemical weapons have planted anxiety in the Kuwaitis at the time the Kuwaiti economy was threatened by the tanker wars," the Communist party newspaper said.

Concluding, Pravda said: "The Kuwaitis are confident that ensuring security does not come about by projecting shelters from shelling but by enhancing peace among all the neighbouring countries."

Traffic seminar recommendations

A NUMBER of significant recommendations were made at the three-day traffic seminar held at Kuwait's Community Development Centre in Bayan from April 4 to 6.

The seminar, patronised by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, recommended that roundabouts be replaced by traffic lights and that all traffic signals be centrally controlled to allow for slow and rush-hour traffic congestion.

It was also recommended that a fee be charged for the ownership of more than one car and that public transportation be improved.

Safety

It was further recommended that wearing a safety belt become a legal requirement since it has been proven to reduce traffic accident fatalities.

The Interior Ministry's Public Relations Director, Colonel Ahmad Al Rujaib reported that the seminar participants also recommended a total community approach to the traffic problem in Kuwait with parents being

encouraged to reconsider automatically buying a car for their 18-year-olds when they get their licence.

An emphasis was also placed on the involvement of schools and mosques in teaching the importance of traffic safety and prudent driving habits.

It was suggested that the General Traffic Department, the Health Ministry and the General Fire Department cooperate in methods of transporting accident victims to hospitals.

Lectures

The seminar was organised by the Higher Traffic Council in cooperation with the General Traffic Department and featured a number of lectures conducted by traffic specialists and university instructors.

The Director-General of the General Traffic Department, Brigadier Fuad Musaed Al Saleh, speaking at the closing session, said the traffic department would do its best to enforce traffic safety laws such as stopping at red lights and driving at a safe speed.

Distribution of houses

AHMED Al Samaka, the assistant director for applications and allocations at Kuwait's National Housing Authority, said the NHA will soon notify citizens, who have applied for Al Jahra houses in the Al Oyoun area prior to March 31, 1986, to come to the office to complete their application formalities.

Al Samaka added that the NHA is trying to complete the allocation of the Qurain lots and that they would distribute five lots in Failaka on April 10.

Applicants for houses in Fintas, who applied prior to March 31, 1978, will be notified to complete their applications soon, he said.

He denied rumours that the NHA was planning to set a specific salary ceiling for applicants who wished to have a flat in the Sawabir Project. He added that the authority is in the process of completing files on citizens for these flats and would distribute them soon.



● The head chef of the Meridien Hotel, Chef Dieder Cazes, has created a special menu exclusively for diners at the Versailles Restaurant. The menu contains delicacies of French and Oriental cuisine. Picture shows Cazes and the new menu.

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Rodhan meets envoys

MINISTER of State for Housing Affairs and head of the Public Authority for Housing, Nasser Abdalla Al Rodhan, received Spain's Ambassador to Kuwait, Juan Jose Arpi and Pakistani Ambassador in Kuwait, Zahad Said.

Aspects of cooperation in the field of housing between Kuwait and these countries were discussed during the meeting.

Most of the freed hostages arrive

Tired and dazed but relieved

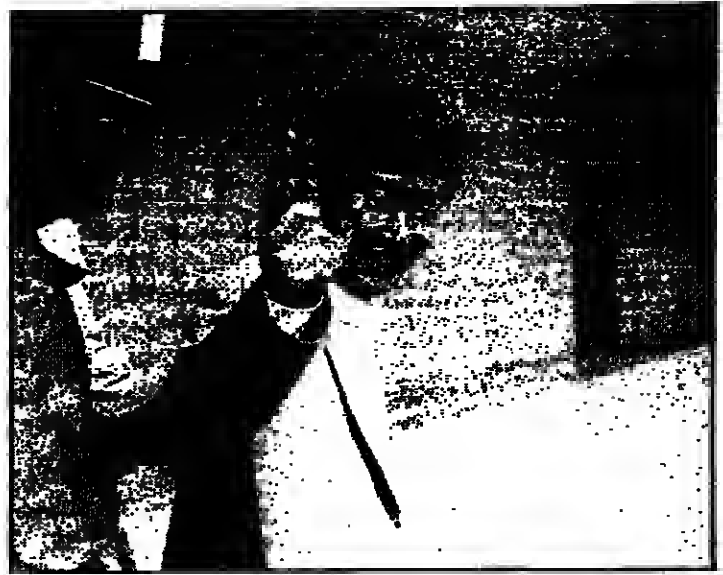
FORTY-NINE of the 57 hostages freed by the hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner arrived in Kuwait yesterday. They were greeted by their family members and friends who had waited anxiously for their arrival. The former hostages of various nationalities, appeared tired, some of them seemed dazed after spending three days aboard the hijacked jumbo jet, but all were obviously relieved. Pictured are some of the men and women who were freed.

The names of all those who were released are listed below.

British: Elizabeth Jane Sefton, John David Sefton, Patricia Sefton, Jean Emma Sefton, Suzanne Armstrong, Susan Carew-Jones, Osman David Carew-Jones, Andrew Mark Appleby, Nicola Mary Appleby, Jane Susan Silcock, Jacqueline Foss, Elaine McIntosh, Peter Barrilam, James Fread Grant, Giza Bela Kurucz, Katalin Kurucz, William Gerald Moore, Simon Pollock, Brydon J.B. Yarrow, James Scott Stillwell, John Andrew Watson, Ralph Albert Watson. Thai: Chamlong

Huabloifar, Sompoaj Mane-ewong, Joh Ratanapant, Weerapong Sanuangwongvichit, Supol Senamae, Jooy Thongsotha, Rakchat Jiratorn, Khalyathed Janya, Junga Harnsuranich, German: Axel Jungfer, Heidrun Jungfer, Pakistani: Fuzieh Tasafuzia, Ahmed Nisar Memon, Ahmad Ghulam Qureshi, Humayoon Shafiq, Irish: Kieran O'Kelly, Marayam O'Kellys, Austrian: Saujude Geokgi, Josef Degeorgi, Heinz Orthner, Syrian: Saad Al Magarabi, Malaz Al Hussaini, Mohamued Samer Attasi, Yasamin Atassi, Egyptian: Hoda Danab, Maman Al Soitan, Sava Ahmad, Jordanian: Mustafa Issa, South Korean: Soo Koon Lee, Japanese: Masato Otsuzuku, Lebanese: Nemr Malek Awada, Filipina: Maria Ifchoon, Palestinian: Leila Al Masheh, Singaporean: Seau-Lee Shen, Sudanese: Babike Al Jebb (crew), South Yemeni: Abdulla Al Hojumar (crew).

(Photos by Saeed Al Khaldi, Mohd. Bedaq, Javed Basra and Ahmed Birouni).



ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

COURAGE is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all the others — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Uprising awakens American concern

By Linda Feldmann

WASHINGTON: For America's Arab population, now is the time to score points with the public and particularly with Congress.

The three-month-old uprising of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied lands has awakened American concern for their struggle. Israel's usually good sense of public relations has gone awry, and the American Jewish community is in a state of confusion.

Trouble is, the playing field isn't even. The Arab-American community can't come close to competing with American Jewry in fund raising, lobbying Congress, or influencing elections through political-action committees.

On money-raising, the issue is not just population size — 2.2 million Arab-Americans to six million American Jews; it's also a matter of tradition.

"Arabs are by nature very generous people, very warm and hospitable, but I don't think they are philanthropic by nature," says Ronnie Hammad, director of the Houston office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

"Here in the United States, it's been an educational process to make them understand the importance of contributing, that nothing happens in this country without money," Hammad adds.

Influencing

By all appearances, the only registered lobbying group for Arab-American causes, the National Association of Arab Americans, is not a force in influencing Congress. The eight-year-old ADC, which has flourished into the largest Arab-American organization with 18,000 members, would like to get into lobbying, but it doesn't have the money to hire good lobbyists, says director Abdeen Jahara.

Where the strategy of Arab leaders really lies is not in competing with the Jewish community in the current system, but in changing the system. The power of political-action committees is one target. At the ADC convention here recently Arab-Americans were exhorted to lobby their congressmen to sup-

port a bill to lower the amounts of money PACs are allowed to contribute to congressional campaigns.

"It offers the first real chance to break the iron grip of the Israeli lobby over Congress," declares an ADC flyer.

It is a well-known axiom in Congress that to speak out for Palestinian causes carries great risks, while not to speak out carries no risk. The situation will not change until it becomes politically necessary for legislators to speak out, Arab-American leaders say.

"Public opinion is not reflected in Congress," ADC director Jahara says.

"But nothing is going to change until they feel heat from their constituents."

Constituency

Building a constituency at the grassroots level and teaching Arab-Americans how to exercise their democratic rights have been a key focus of community leaders for the past several years.

Four years ago, James Zoghy left as head of the ADC and started the Arab American Institute, which coordinates local efforts to establish an Arab-American presence in the political parties.

For the current presidential campaign, Zoghy's organization laid out a four-part plan to build that presence.

● Make sure Arab-Americans are registered to vote.

● Get Arab-Americans into campaign staffs.

● Train Arab-Americans in how to become delegates for party conventions.

● Coach local Arab-American communities in making the most of their political clout.

Zoghy is particularly excited about successes in lining up Arab-Americans to be delegates for the national conventions. In the 1984 campaign, six delegates were slated and four won. This time, 85 have been slated, most of them with Jesse Jackson.

Jackson has played a major role as a rallying point for Arab-Americans in this campaign. In an informal survey, conducted by the Arab American Institute, 80 per cent of Arab-American political activists in 17 communities said they support Jackson.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Israelis still eagerly embrace America

Leaders' tussle makes no dent in enthusiasm

By Howard Goller

TEL AVIV, (Reuters): While Israeli leaders tussle with Washington over how to handle a Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Israelis still embrace the United States with such enthusiasm that some say they live in America's 51st state.

"America is the second homeland of Israeli Jews," says engineer Nehemiah Kaplan, 50.

At present, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is firmly resisting a Middle East peace plan from visiting US Secretary of State George Shultz, but both men say the differences will not shake the deep friendship between the Jewish state and its American patron.

Demonstrations in Israel more often support US policy than attack it. The largest turnout at the US embassy recently gathered not to criticize America, but to praise it. The crowd supported US perseverance on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

The dollar is nearly always on the rise. And US newsmagazines are best sellers with one of every 200 Israelis buying Time, and one in 400 getting Newsweek.

"The United States in general is a domestic issue in Israel and not a foreign issue, and the same is true in the United States," says Eytan Gilboa, dean of overseas students at Hebrew University and an expert on US-Israeli relations.

Aid

Leaders of both countries insist their friendship transcends discord over US Middle East peace initiative and Israel's use of beatings and bullets to quash Palestinian unrest in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It's a love-hate relationship without the hate," says Howard Lane, public affairs counselor at the US embassy in Tel Aviv.

Israel receives more US aid — \$3 billion a year — than any other country. Israeli and American officials meet regularly on issues of military cooperation.

There are other ties. The world's largest Jewish community — six million in number — lives in the United States. Roughly half of all Israelis have family or Jewish friends there.

Business flows because of a unique 1985 free-trade agreement gradually lifting tariffs between Israel and the United States. Only Canada has a similar arrangement with Washington.

More than half the 75,000 Americans in Israel are members of the 37-year-old Association of American and Canadians in Israel (AACI), a group that presses such distinctly American causes as electoral reform, consumer protection and voluntarism.

American influence has captivated Israeli society.

"We feel so close to the United States that we have more faith in their economy than they do. This is the only country in the world where the dollar is going up," says Guillermo Levinton, Budweiser Beer's Israeli marketing manager.

"Prices of cars, houses and even budgets are set in dollars. Where else is the black market dollar rate published every day on the front page of the newspaper?" he asks.

Israelis are nevertheless jealous of their independence. While proud of their friendship with the United States, many wonder whether so close a relationship is to Israel's ultimate good.

"People joke about being the 51st state," Gilboa says, "but no Israeli prime minister would like to be just a governor."

In 1983, an Israeli finance minister was hooted out of office for proposing that Israel adopt the dollar as its official currency.

Such mixed feelings surface in Israeli slang.

A person who "finds America" has a good job in Israel and a nice house. But an immigrant from the United States tells of being teased for acting "so American" when she says something the slightest bit naive.

Popular T-shirts depict an Israeli Air Force jet beneath the slogan: "Don't worry America — Israel is behind you."

Historians say the friendship has been years in the making. The turning point was Israel's lightning victory in the 1967 six-day war. The next year, Golda Meir, who grew up in Milwaukee, became prime minister.

It was a time when the United States, faltering in the Vietnam war, was looking for a winner. American news correspondents poured into Israel. Tourism mounted in both directions.

American Jewry sent money and volunteers.

Opposition

In recent months, many in that same Jewish community have been galvanized by growing opposition to Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising. More than 130 Palestinians have died in nearly four months of unrest.

Some Israelis worry about their country's over-dependence on US aid, a decline in Israeli values and a rise in such problems as crime and drug abuse.

Some fear their countrymen, despite a pioneering socialist tradition, have been lured by a fictitious easy life depicted in such television programmes as "Dallas" and "Dynasty."

"At the beginning of the state, individual achievement was sacrificed for large Zionist and Israeli goals. Israelis worked hard in the fields and industry in the stock exchange," says Hebrew University's Gilboa.

Carl Alpert, a columnist for 50 foreign Jewish weekly newspapers, wrote recently: "Even the Hebrew language, preserved in near purity for several thousand years, is being mixed with the popular infusion of words and phrases taken over from American slang and jargon."

David Rubin, information director of AACI, said: "Eventually this country is going to have to stand on its own two feet. It did so for many years."

Bush brags about his experience in CIA

By John Dillin

WASHINGTON: George Bush was shocked and apprehensive. President Gerald Ford had just asked him to quit his post as ambassador to China and take over the troubled Central Intelligence Agency. It was 1975.

The agency was a "dead end" job, Bush thought — and it would be the finish of his political career. He wondered whether his political opponents planned to "bury Bush at the CIA." He thought about a comment Henry Kissinger once made: "Even paranooids have real enemies."

Today, Bush brags about his CIA experience. It has become one of the crown jewels in his sparkling resume — a job that he says gave him special insight and helped equip him for the White House.

Bush claims he was responsible for "picking up the CIA when it was down." In an interview with the Monitor, he claimed credit for making needed changes and putting the intelligence community back on its feet.

Is Bush claiming too much? Or did he really do the first-class job that he talks about in campaign speeches all across the country?

The Bush tenure at the CIA's Langley, Va., headquarters lasted only about a year. But it was a year of deep problems at the agency, its morale shattered by the revelations of a Senate investigating committee headed by Frank Church (D) of Idaho. If one asks people in the American intelligence community about Bush, there is much praise for his time at Langley.

William Colby, who was CIA director until Bush took over, says: "The first thing to remember is the Bush did a good job." Colby says Bush was so fondly remembered that in 1980, if the presidential election had been held only at CIA headquarters, Bush "would have gotten 99 per cent of the votes."

Richard Helms, another former CIA director, jokes that intelligence operatives thought Bush "walked on water."

Loch Johnson, a political science professor at the University of Georgia, worked with Senator Church on the lengthy investigation of the CIA during the mid-1970s. He watched Bush's performance at Langley, and rates it favorably.

Bush's general description of what he accomplished there is right. He was a tonic for the agency when it was feeling pretty poorly," Dr. Johnson says. The professor, currently writing "America's Secret Power," a book about the CIA, sought out senior intelligence officials for their opinions about former directors of the agency.

Johnson says the intelligence community puts three previous CIA directors at the very top — Allen Dulles, Richard Helms, and John McCone. But, close behind, and far ahead of some others, is Bush.

A number of sources agree that Bush demonstrated two great strengths while he was at the agency. Personally, he was warm, gracious, and sincere. He showed a genuine interest in finding out what was going on. At a time when the CIA was at its nadir, being battered almost daily in the media, he treated the people of the agency with respect. Morale quickly climbed.

Bush also improved the agency's relations with official Washington. His hail-fellow-well-met attitude toward congressmen, his warmth, and his understanding of official Washington mended fences.

Archie Roosevelt, grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt and a longtime intelligence officer, calls Bush "a very human man who knows how to talk to people. He also brought to the job a broad education" — immensely important at Langley.

Roosevelt, author of the just-released book, "For Lust of Knowing: Memoirs of an Intelligence Officer," says the agency was a "wreck" when Bush arrived. "Bush came along with his personality and his contacts, and did a great deal to restore the morale there."

While most comments about Bush are positive, a number of sources caution that his CIA performance should not be exaggerated.

There is general agreement that it takes about two years to master the job of director of central intelligence and to begin having major input into a vast bureaucracy which extends around the world.

Bush stepped down after one year when Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, was elected to the White House. So his role at CIA, while important, was somewhat "superficial," Johnson says. There simply wasn't time to get dug in.

Johnson also adds this footnote: "I get a little nervous about Bush in the White House because I feel there might be an air of permissiveness pervading the intelligence establishment, and not the controls that President Carter imposed."

Trouble

Johnson's concerns reach back to the dark days of dirty tricks, assassination plots, and deals with the Mafia which originally got the CIA into trouble with Congress.

More than 10 years later, former director Helms still blasts the Senate hearings that revealed CIA methods as "irresponsible." And Johnson, who took part in those hearings, says now that some charges against the agency may have been "exaggerated" and that "most of what the agency did was laudable." But he says there were some "repugnant" aspects of the agency's work, and he worries that Bush might not keep such tendencies in check.

Robert Morgan, a former US senator and now director of the State Bureau of Investigation in North Carolina, took part in the CIA hearings. He cautions that it was only after Bush left and Adm. Stansfield Turner was put in charge at Langley that some improper clandestine activities were halted.

One of Bush's final acts as director was to brief President-elect Carter, in November 1976.

In his autobiography, "Looking Forward," Bush recalls that as he and his aides were explaining a problem expected to reach crisis levels by the mid-1980s, Carter held up his hand to stop. He said with a smile:

"I don't need to worry about that. By then George will be president."

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



Disc jockey Zina Khouri at Beirut's Mont-Liban FM radio plays the latest British, American and French hits. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rock music radio stations relieve tension in Beirut

By Paul Bolding

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Rock music radio stations in Beirut are riding a wave of popularity as young people strapped for cash look for an antidote to relieve the tensions of civil war.

Slick and professional disc jockeys play British, American and French hits 24 hours a day across the FM band. They talk English and French, widely understood and accepted as the languages of the Rock culture.

But the chat is kept to a minimum.

"People don't like to hear talk," said Charles Chidiac, manager of Magic 102. "It is the stress of war. They just want music. Often we have no announcements between the records."

Apart from the cinema, which costs 250 pounds (70 US cents) a ticket, nightlife in Christian east Beirut is expensive so youngsters tend to stay at home and gather around the radio with friends.

Lack of a secure future after 13 years of civil war means investors are wary of putting money into new entertainment ventures, said Raymond Gaspar, who manages Radio One and promotes concerts by local artists.

"Life is difficult. We have an economic crisis so people go out as little as possible," said Chidiac, 26, in his office at the port of Jounieh north of Beirut.

"A night out could cost 1,500, 2,000 pounds (four to six dollars) each, which is a lot of money if you earn the minimum monthly

wage of 8,500 pounds (\$25)," he said.

Magic 102 disc jockey John Bassil echoes that view. In a studio where he chooses records, he pushes "switches" and reads the latest dollar exchange rates, he said.

"People are under stress. They want to know when the war will end. Sometimes they cannot study, cannot get to school. The cost of living is high."

Lebanon has nearly 50 FM stations, some of very low power and serving local minority communities like Syrians or Armenians. Most have sprung up since the war started in 1975.

Many use Arabic, playing traditional music and poetry readings, but indications are that the half-dozen commercial Rock stations have most listeners. Other top names are Radio Mont-Liban, Radio Fame and Radio Fax.

Bills

Advertisements for stores and consumer goods pay the bills.

Most broadcast from east Beirut, apparently as the more Western-oriented Christians wanted them and because the Lebanese Force (LF) militia, which controls the area, encouraged them.

They claim to have many listeners in Muslim west Beirut as well.

The LF policies the frequencies and bans politics. It owns Magic 102 and an Arabic station but the others are private.

"We wanted to show people

that east Beirut was not just about war, fighting. That there was a certain culture, that people were not savages," said Chidiac.

At Broumanna, in the hills above Beirut, Raymond Gaspar of Radio One said: "The young people realise there could be bombing tomorrow. They are eager to go out and have fun but foreign Rock bands cannot come here because they cannot get insurance."

"We are an important part of people's entertainment. Our listeners are very faithful. They fight for us," he said.

News

Gaspar said independent stations were discussing grouping together to produce a headline news service. "We want to stop people switching to the AM stations to get the news," he said.

The first full listener survey, by a local Gallup affiliate, is due soon, but Gaspar said Radio One's research showed its audience was widening from the 16-24 age group to all groups up to 50 or 60.

The biggest hit on the FM stations? American Rock star Rick Springfield is number one with a song called "Honeymoon in Beirut" whose popularity shows youngsters don't mind being reminded of the war.

He sings:

"I wake up every night to the sound of breaking glass, Got troops in the bed and tanks in the hall, Kidnapped and held for ransom, the one in me that you loved..."

Macao tangled up in Peking's politics

By Kerry Fraser

MACAO, (Reuters): Macao, the Portuguese enclave whose major money makers are gambling and prostitution, is becoming tangled up in Peking's politics.

The Chinese officially take over this dot of a territory on China's southern coast in 1999. But Peking mandarins are already reckoned to be battling Chinese company managers and provincial bureaucrats for control of Macao.

In the middle are Macao's residents, about 10,000 Portuguese or Eurasians and 410,000 ethnic Chinese. Some are planning to stay after China takes over because they hope to make a lot of money. Others are getting ready to leave because they fear the communists.

But most, mainly those without enough money to make a choice, can do little but wait uneasily to see what happens.

Jaime Lo, a Portuguese-speaking Chinese, has lived here all his life and worries about the future, but he doesn't earn enough as a port policeman to emigrate.

Fears

Looking from the quays of Macao across the water at China's only 75 yards (metres) away, he summed up the fears of the many who have to say: "China is very poor. They don't have the standard of living we have here. Or the freedom. I think it could be pretty bad when the Chinese take over."

Portugal established Macao in 1557, 40 miles from what would eventually become the thriving British colony of Hong Kong.

For a century Macao was one of the world's richest cities, but its fortunes faded as Portugal's dominance of trade with the East waned.

In the middle of the last century, to stave off destitution, Macao legalised gambling, which along with prostitution still provides much of the territory's income.

Casinos, nightclubs and massage parlours attract many of the more than five million visitors, mostly Chinese from Hong Kong, who come here each year.

The heritage of Portugal mixes with the culture of modern China. Colonial buildings, sometimes centuries old and the worse for wear, stand near streets markets where Chinese delicacies like dog and snake are sold.

Shop signs are often in both Portuguese and Chinese, and life has the relaxed pace of Portugal.

But Macao's history as a Portuguese territory ends soon. Last year Portugal and China signed an agreement returning control to China in 1999, two years after the mainland takes over Hong Kong from Britain.

Peking has promised to let Macao keep capitalism and its political system for 50 years, the same promise it made to Hong Kong.

But people here already see China's influence growing quickly.

"Large Chinese (state-owned) companies and banks and provincial governments are buying property and investing in factories. They are also taking over trading companies," says Eduardo Tavares da Silva, director of the Macao Business Centre, which advises mainland Chinese investors.

China's influence goes well beyond business. It controls many labour unions, and the Macao Daily, the largest Chinese-language newspaper, openly supports Peking, as do many local Chinese leaders.

With Chinese power so evident now, the people of Macao know their futures depend on politics in Peking.

Some are hopeful, arguing that Macao and Hong Kong are but small parts in China's scheme to convince Taiwan it should rejoin the mainland under Peking's "one country, two systems" policy.

By Rory Channing

NAIROBI, (Reuters): Rains are slowly sweeping north through Africa, rolling back a drought that has ravaged much of the continent.

The drought "looks like it might break," said Peter Usher, meteorological chief at the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme.

The rains, breaking dry spells that have lasted as long as seven years in some areas, promise desperately needed relief for millions of people threatened by starvation — if they can hold out until the next harvest.

First signs of a change in fortunes came late last year, when torrential rains broke the back of a five-year drought in South Africa.

They have since carried north to Kenya, on the equator, and are continuing into Ethiopia, where more than five million people face famine, and Sudan.

Usher told Reuters that a vital pressure belt, the inter-tropical convergence zone, which follows the sun south and then north again, was weak as it moved down the continent last year, and produced poor rains.

"But on its reversal and passage northwards it seems to have assumed what could be called a

more normal pattern, and rains in southern Africa appear to have been good."

"In Kenya they have started on time in March and appear to be good. There is every indication now that they will be good as they move north into Ethiopia and Sudan," he said.

The pressure belt can gain or lose strength as it changes direction, but usually does not do so once it is in northern or southern bound.

The rain could, therefore, benefit all or most of the 20 countries which only months ago formed a giant drought belt, tracing an arc from Mauritania in the west through Somalia on the east coast south to Swaziland.

Aid

But many people may continue to suffer hunger until present food crops, or those planted in coming months, grow.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization, in its latest crop report for Africa on Feb 26, warned of precarious prospects for food supplies despite hefty foreign handouts.

Of 4.6 million tonnes of food aid needed to tide countries south of the Sahara through to

the next harvests, more than one fifth — needed in 35 countries — had yet to win pledges.

Ethiopia, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Chad, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Niger needed exceptional relief, it said.

An end to drought is only part of the answer. Civil war reduces the ability of Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan to feed their peoples.

The rains could also create fertile hunting grounds for huge swarms of locusts sweeping North and West Africa in the worst plague for 30 years, and threatening to move south.

Already, the rains have taken a heavy toll. Hundreds of people have died and flood damage runs into millions of dollars.

In Mozambique, where an estimated four million people face starvation, floods forced the evacuation of 15,000 people from the Limpopo valley.

Cyclone-borne rains damaged rice fields, felled coconut trees, temporarily knocked out clean water supplies in Beira, and forced the closure of a road from that Indian Ocean port to Harare. Beira is an important artery to the sea for landlocked Zimbabwe.

Excessive rains reduced Zimbabwe's tobacco harvest, its main export crop, and threatened cotton and maize harvests. Sunny weather needs to continue in order to overcome the effects, the state farm management advisory agency, Agritex, says.

Downpours in Lesotho last October created widespread havoc, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency.

Damage apart, some countries have reaped a bonanza. Malawi's President Kamuzu Banda has predicted a bumper harvest after last season's drought left shortages of staple maize.

Usher warns against complacency, however. Development of long-term forecasting tools is an early stage in Africa, which still has limited understanding of the climate.

While one drought is often followed by another drought, or a wet period by a wet period, one cannot rely on that.

"One should always plan for drought in Africa, or be prepared for drought, because drought is normal now," he said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1553 — Francois Rabelais, French writer, dies.
- 1609 — Spain signs nine-year truce with Holland.
- 1682 — La Salle, French explorer, reaches Gulf of Mexico after travelling down Mississippi River.
- 1691 — French forces capture Mons in Belgium.
- 1783 — Tipu of Mysore forces British to surrender Bednore.
- 1865 — Confederate (southern) Gen. Robert E. Lee capitulates to Union (northern) Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to end US civil war.
- 1928 — Islam is no longer recognised as state religion in Turkey.
- 1940 — German forces invade Norway and Denmark in World War II.
- 1942 — American-Filipino forces on Bataan surrender to Japanese.
- 1949 — United Nations International Court of Justice delivers its first decision, holding Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel and awarding Britain damages.
- 1971 — Jordan's King Hussein accepts Syrian proposal to end two weeks of fighting with Palestinian commandos in Jordan.
- 1974 — India, Pakistan and Bangladesh sign agreement to repatriate 195 Pakistani prisoners of war.
- 1975 — House of Commons in London votes in favour of Britain's continued membership in European common market.
- 1978 — Loyal troops in Somalia crush attempted coup by Army officers.
- 1986 — West Berlin expels two Libyan diplomats and says it has "several indications" Libya is behind bombing of Berlin discotheque.
- 1987 — Experts in Zebrugge, Belgium, identify some of the corpses removed from the semi-submerged British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise.

TV CORNER

This week on KTV 2

- SUNDAY**
- 2.15 Holy Quran
2.25 Cartoons
2.40 Football: Kuala Lumpur qualifiers. Kuwait vs Iraq.
6.30 Danger Bay: "A Man of Few Words." An aquarium worker is promoted by Dr Roberts but the employee wants a better grade.
7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly programme on Islamic thought and philosophy.
7.30 The Weekly World of Sports: a lighthearted look at sporting events.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Flying Doctors: "Trial by Gossip." The new doctor treats a patient with a severe condition.
9.30 Twilight Zone: "The Last Defender of Camelot." The Middle Ages come to life in the modern age.
10.00 Together We Stand: a comedy about a family who adopt a Chinese child.
10.30 Best-Seller: "Hoover vs the Kennedys." Part Two. Set during the Black Civil Rights Movement, it recreates the conflict between the then president and the FBI chief.
12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- MONDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Wildfire cartoon serial
6.30 The Animal Express: a visit to a famous animal care centre.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly programme on current world events.
7.30 Don't Wait Up: comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Murder She Wrote: "The Way to Dusty Death." A company manager dies in mysterious circumstances.
9.30 National Geographic: "China Journal." An American university group visits China to examine the way of life in that country.
10.30 Best-Seller: "A Year in Absence." A woman's life in a foreign country.
12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- TUESDAY**
- 2.00 Holy Quran
2.10 Cartoons
2.40 Football: Kuala Lumpur qualifiers. Kuwait vs Jordan.
- 6.30 Punky Brewster: a serial for children.
7.00 Beyond 2000: a look at latest advances in science and technology. Tonight, a look at mass-production of watches in Japan; and other innovations.
8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: a local programme.
8.50 Leg Work: "The Art of Murder." A missing woman is murdered. And her husband is charged with the crime.
9.30 Married with Children: family comedy.
10.00 Omsi: The New Frontier: hosted by Peter Ostrov.
10.30 Charlie Chan: thriller, featuring Robert Conrad, Shane Conrad, Christine Conrad.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- WEDNESDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Adventures of Gummi Bears: cartoons
6.30 The Micro at Work: computers and office equipment.
7.00 Fairy Tale Theatre: another fable about a princess who is banished by her step-mother.
7.30 Growing Pains: "The Kid." On the eve of a special family occasion, Ben brings home an orphan, upsetting the family's plans.
8.00 News in English
8.40 J.J. Starbuck: detective series with a millionaire fighting crime.
9.30 Wildlife on One: "Inflight Movie." Sledge Hammer: "The Colour of Hammer." Sledge is asked to find the man who killed a judge.
10.30 Falcon Crest: Richard Channing plans to destroy Angela; Melissa goes with Frank on a treasure hunt; and Maggie tries to make her marriage work.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- THURSDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Sports Studio: highlights of football, basketball and other sports; local and international.
6.10 Centurions: cartoons
6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: Cartoons
7.00 Rags to Riches: "Dear Diary."



Margaret Colin plays Claire McCarron in Leg Work, Tuesday, 8.50 pm.

8.00 News in English
8.40 TV Bloopers
9.20 Spenser for Hire: "The Man Who wasn't There." Spenser's girlfriend is in trouble.
10.00 The Bill Cosby Show: "Hillman." Cliff attends a graduation ceremony at a university and recalls his days at college.
10.30 Late Night Movie: "The Invisible Woman." A reporter starts fading out after spilling some chemicals on herself in biochemist uncle's lab and puts her invisibility to use by chasing big story of an art heist.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

2.30 Holy Quran
2.40 Sports Studio: highlights of local and world sports.
2.55 Football: Kuala Lumpur qualifiers: Kuwait vs Pakistan.
6.10 Transformers: cartoons
6.30 Out of this World: "Till Then." Donna is jealous of Eve, who is having a heart-to-heart talk with her father.
7.30 Airwolf: "Rogue Warriors." The team searches for a missing hovercraft.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away: local show
9.00 The Beauty and the Beast: "The Terrible Saviour."
9.40 227: comedy... Lester attends a sports festival with his wife.
10.10 Guinness Records
10.30 The Wiseguy: "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell." Sonny plans to marry; and Vinnie is in trouble. Starring: Ken Wahl.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

SATURDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Sports Studio: highlights of football, basketball and other sports; local and international.
6.10 Centurions: cartoons
6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: Cartoons
7.00 Rags to Riches: "Dear Diary."

KTV I weekly highlights

- SUNDAY**
- 3.30 Tan Tan: a daily cartoon serial for children.
5.30 Al Manahab: a programme for young viewers.
7.30 Diwanat Shura Al Naht: a poetry session featuring Naht poets.
11.00 Highlights of the First GCC Theatre Festival, recently held in Kuwait. Prepared and presented by Huda Al Mohtadi.
- MONDAY**
- 3.30 The Western Star: cartoon serial.
7.30 Quran and Science: "Alam Al Bahar." Part One, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawkat Ibrahim.
9.50 Layali Al Hilmiya: daily serial. Starring: Yahya Fakhrani, Safiya Al Omari, Hassan Yusuf, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Huda Sultan.
11.00 Salamati Fi Khair: Arabic feature film, starring Najeh Rehani, Raqia Ibrahim, Hussein Riyadh, Hassan Faq. Thriller.
- TUESDAY**
- 3.30 The Journey of the Moon: cartoons.
4.25 Wa Im'atasmah: daily serial, featuring Tamam Tamimi, Siha Salem, Sami Qaftan, Hina Mohammad. A historical serial about Arab ties with Rome in ancient times.
5.15 Agricultural Magazine: prepared and presented by Mahdi Behbahani.
7.05 Afaq Al Fann: a programme on the artistic movement in the Gulf.
9.50 Pages from the History of Kuwait: presented by Saif Marzouk Shamlan.
- WEDNESDAY**
- 5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today. Presented by Fatima Toq. Directed by Saleh Al Ojairi.
- 7.05 With Students: a weekly quiz show for children of public schools in Kuwait. Hosted by Nuria Farhan.
9.05 Al Difaa Yataham: part one of daily Arabic serial, starring Mustafa Fahmi, Iman Toqi, Samir Hussaini, Mohammad Wafiq. Thriller, directed by Saeed Al Rashidi.
10.45 Music Studio: a weekly variety show featuring top Arab performers.
- THURSDAY**
- 11.00 Al Islam Wal Insaan: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Abdul Suboor Shahin.
11.30 Aqd Al Yasmin: Arabic play, starring Amina Rizk, Salah Zulfikar, Kawther Al As'al, Majda Hamada. The poor daughter of an ageing lady marries a wealthy man and faces many problems.
4.15 The Saint: Roger Moore plays the dechonan detective Simon Templar. In this episode he helps a friend who is involved with the Mafia.
7.00 Show Jumping: Ali Hamdi presents the results of show jumping.
10.30 Amsan Ya Dumayr: Arabic feature film. Starring: Afaf Shuaib, Yunus Shalbi, Najah Al Maui, Farida Saif Al Nasr.
- FRIDAY**
- 10.20 Children's Magazine: a programme for children by children.
3.45 Hindi Feature Film: Bulindi. Starring: Raj Kumar, Asha Parekh, Kim.
10.45 Fursah Lil Hayat: Arabic play, featuring Bahjat Al Juboori, Laila Mohammad, Awatif Ibrahim, Social.



Scene from Monday's Arabic film, Salamati Fi Khair, KTV 1.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Tan Tan: Waheed's Secret. Cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
4.25 Wa Ma'tasamah: starring Siha Salem, Sami Qaftan.
5.45 Open University
6.50 News Summary
6.55 Noor Al Islam: "Hajj Al Bashriya Ijal Deen." Guests are Dr. Muleh Sayyed Biyoumi, Dr. Siddiq Abdul Aziz Ahul Hassan, hosted by Ahmad Abdul Qader.
7.25 Nazrat Alal Alam
7.40 Security and Citizens: presented by Nasser Radhan.
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Layali Al Hilmiya: Arabic serial, starring Yahya Fakhrani.



Robert Mitchum stars in tonight's feature film, Promises to Keep, 10.30 pm, KTV 2.

- 8.00 News in English
8.40 The Blue Knight: "The Great Wall." The policeman is off to China Town, where there is trouble between two rival gangs.
9.30 The Spirit of Adventure: "Beneath the Sea." A look at life underwater.
10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: Promises to Keep. Below average movie about a footloose man's visit to the family he abandoned 30 years earlier. Starring: Robert Mitchum, Christopher Mitchum and Bentley C. Mitchum.
12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- KTV 2**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thundercats: cartoon serial for young viewers.
6.30 Great Expectations: Part Two.
7.00 Lorne Green's New Wilderness: "The Apes of Barbary."
7.30 Alf: "Little Bit of Soap." Grandma has a hard time getting used to Alf's presence in the home.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Personal View
45 Recording of the Week (ex 9th Grand National Preview)
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Juke Box Dury (ex 30th Andy Kershaw's World of Music)
1:30 Nature Notebook
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Network UK
30 People and Politics
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Europe's World
45 Business Matters
0400 Newsweek
30 Here's Humphrey (ex 9th Grand National Preview)
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Personal View
45 The World Today
0600 Newsweek
30 Meridian
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From the Weeklies
45 Network UK
0800 World News
09 Redefinition
15 A Jolly Good Show
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Personal View
1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humphrey
15 Letter from America
30 People and Politics
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Big Bands - The Singers
30 Meridian
1200 Radio Newsworld
15 Multitrack 3
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK
45 Sportsworld
1400 News Summary followed by Sportsworld contd.

English

- Morning
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Cultural Horizon
0930 Reggae Rock
1000 Our Press Today
1050 Songs and Music
1050 The Years of Pop
1100 Closedown
1300 News on FM Service Evening
2102 Opening
2102 Kuwait: Our Beloved Homeland
2120 Songs and Music
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 Kuwait in a Week
2215 Rock On
2300 Strictly Romantic
2330 Amazing Facts
2400 Closedown

FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Spanish Hour
1800 Pops
2130 News
2145 Pops
2200 Indian Classical Hour
2300 Easy Listening
0200 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
1910 Scherens Qual
1915 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Jaizah
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Dhanak
2100 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
Tough Busters
Al Salmiya
Night Stick
Al Hamra
Maut Samira (Arabic)
Starring: Kamal Shinnawi, Iham Shahin, Ragha
Drive-In
Al Mar'at Wal Kanoon (Arabic)
Starring: Sherihan, Farouk Fishawi, Magda Khateeb
Al Firdous
Kinara (Hindi)
Starring: Jeetendra, Hema Malini
- Fahad Open-Air
Samrat (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Evade Ellavarkum Sugam (Malayalam)
Al Jabra
Enemy Afraid of Ninth Son (Russian)
Granada
Hand Gun
Sulabikhat
Al Mal'ouh (Arabic)
Al Jleeb
Ibente
(Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
When A Stranger Calls

U.K. Property

Investment advisers visiting Kuwait 9 - 11 April. For an appointment call 5657000 ext 220 or 401.
PCV Property Services, Langley House, Tudor Road, Hazimara, Doha HP15 7PD.
Phone: 00 44 49481 0850
Telex: 2858716 (Ref MNU 208).

Cordial invitation to costume jewellery dealers extended by Khalil Bahman Trading Est.

Telephone: 2422091/2/5, 2429411, 2429189
To attend an exhibition organised by Jablonex Foreign Trade Corporation of Czechoslovakia. There will be a wide display of latest collection of metal, glass and wooden imitation jewellery, handbags, ladies belts, hair crowns and artificial flowers.
Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Red Room on mezzanine floor, from Sunday 10th April, until Sunday 17th April 1988.
Timings: 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 noon & 4.00 - 8.30 p.m.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
Sudanese artist Hasan Haken is showing his drawings at the gallery in Salmiya Complex. It is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm, until April 21.

Sultan Gallery
An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhamia is open daily, except Friday, from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the gallery, Al Soor St, until April 10. On April 11, a preview of an exhibition entitled "The Islamic Heritage of Spain" will be held at 5 pm.

CINEMA

Seminar on cinema
A seminar on cinema and its role in the media will be held on April 13 at 7 pm at the Graduates Society, near Kuwait Hilton and US Embassy. A British-American film "Courage Along the Divide," a film on the Arab-Israeli conflict will be shown. Farouk Abdul Aziz, of the Cine Club, and Kuwait University professor Dr Ghanem Najjar will take part in the seminar. It has been jointly organised by the Cine Club, the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society and the Graduates Society.

Yugoslav Cinema Week
Five Yugoslav short feature films will be shown at the Introducing Yugoslav Cinema week, which opens tonight with "When Father Was Away on Business," directed by Emir Kusturica. The other films are: April 10: "Who's Singing Over There," directed by Slobodan Sijan.
April 11: "Petria's Wreath," directed by Srdjan Karanovic.
April 12: "The Magpie Strategy" directed by Zlatko Lavranic.
April 13: "The Two Halves of the Heart," directed by Vefik Hadzismajlovic.
All films will be shown at



The Lakpals: Adolphus, Nimal, Bongso, Sourjah, Noel and Lucky.

7.30 pm at the auditorium of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

MUSIC

Lakpals
Lakpals, a popular Sri Lankan musical group will perform at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel on Sunday, 6 pm.

THEATRE

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance
The company will present two ballets "Carnival" and "The Never Ending Story" from April 25 to 29, 8.30 pm nightly, at the Mousetrap Theatre, NES, Jahriya. Tickets - KD4. From Saturday, April 9, the box office at Mousetrap will be open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings ring 5610673, 8 am to 1 pm.

Stepping Out
Kuwait Players present the comedy "Stepping Out," directed by Ken Winston with choreography by Donna Smith, who also plays the lead, from April 10 to 14 at the Crystal Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel. Tickets sold out for gala night - dress black tie or lounge suite. Tickets (KD5 each including buffet on gala night) available for all other nights. For reservations ring 5331269; 5745838; 538149.

SPORTS

Interschool Knockout '88
Interschool Knockout '88 Grand Finale takes place on Wednesday on April 13 featuring four schools: Gulf English School, French School, Kuwait English School and Universal American School. Games start at 5 pm. Spectators welcome. Minimum ticket prices including barbecue dinner, beverages and raffle prizes. For details contact the hotel.
Ahmed Kart Club

The annual general meeting will be held on April 12, Wednesday, 7.30 pm, at the kart track. All those interested are welcome to attend. For details contact Sue Andrews - 3982055.

Colenutt Regatta
Al Kubbar Yachting Committee will hold its annual Colenutt dinghy-windsurfing regatta on April 14 and 15 at the TEC Sea Club in Fahadhel. Participants with own dinghy-surfboard (competition fee KD5) and spectators welcome. For details phone 4842493.

K.O.S.A.
Kuwait Offshore Sailing Committee (K.O.S.A.) will hold an extraordinary general meeting on April 19, 1600 hours, at Fahadhel Sea Club. All members are invited to attend.

E.M.A.C. Tournament
A tennis tournament for under-16s will be held from April 13 to 16 at the SAS Hotel. Participating teams are from Abu Dhabi, Oman, Damascus, American School of Kuwait, Universal American School, Kuwait English School and New English School. The tournament has been organised by E.M.A.C. (Eastern Mediterranean Activities Conference).

Goan Cup Tournament
The Young Goans Association, Kuwait, will hold a seven-a-side football tournament on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day at 7.30 am. Tournament commences

at 7.45 am. The tournament is open to all communities, subject to approval by organisers. For details contact Tom 2419409; Almeida - 4813892 ext. 232.

HOTELS

At the Meridian
Versailles is open for lunch and dinner featuring Continental cuisine; a selection of meat and seafood offered. Live entertainment in the evening. La Brasserie offers business lunch and dinner. Extensive buffet and a la carte service.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers Arabic and Continental buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sample the ambience and cuisine in the Coffee Shop, open from 6 am to 1 am.

Al Ramada Al Salam
Dine in Al Bender Restaurant and get a free raffle ticket with a chance to win KD. 1,000 in cash. The offer lasts until April 15.

At the SAS
Experience the charm of the Orient at the Saharai Al Khema, featuring dinner, live music, raffle prizes and an Arabian Bazaar.

At the Sheraton
Dine in the Hunt room with live music by the Trio Paradise. For lunch a la carte is offered. Tarbouche on the roof offers Lebanese food on Sunday night in Al Hamra Restaurant with live music by the World Machine Band.

At the Continental
The Gardenia features a food and beverage service on The Terrace. A daily buffet dinner and Friday lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialities; the Darbar offers daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

At the Hilton
All-day dining, La Palma Restaurant is open daily from 6.30 am to midnight offering Oriental, Continental and international cuisine as well as a large array of sweets and desserts. A full American buffet breakfast is available from 6.30 am to 11 am.

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.06 am
Zuhr 11.49
Asr 3.23 pm
Maghreb 6.12
Isha 7.30

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
Al Jahra Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salam St.
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Behbehani Complex, Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Hawala and Nagra
Al Qatami Pharmacy
Beirut St.
Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Al Hiba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahadhel and Almadhi
Al Bastoor Pharmacy
Qais Al Ghanem Bldg.
Dabbous St. Fheel
Farwaniya
Al Munawar Pharmacy
South Souk St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg.
Matafi St.

Does she have the same magical gifts as her more famous siblings?

LaToya Jackson: wants a piece of the action

By Michele Digirolamo

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, (UPI): It's not easy being the sister of a superstar singer. If you are trying to launch your own musical career, the comparisons are inevitable. Sometimes people just don't give you a fair shake.

LaToya Jackson — sister of Michael and Janet — knows. She has tried in the past to launch her singing career but the few albums she recorded failed to light any fires in the music world.

"I feel that the public has a tendency to compare and to judge," said Jackson, whose age has been reported anywhere from 25 to 32.

"We are all individuals," Jackson said. "I think it is wrong to compare. If I was just an entertainer, everything would be just swell. But the minute they hear the name Jackson, they expect much more than they would of a regular entertainer."

Jack Gordon, her manager, echoed his protege's sentiments.

"I think LaToya has been totally forgotten," Gordon said.

Many remember LaToya as the shy Jackson who once made a fashion statement by wearing a headband on stage. She always attired herself modestly. LaToya may have worn flashy sequins, but they were sewn on long, high-cut gowns or long-sleeved blouses.

LaToya reincarnated can take your breath away.

Publicity shots show her clad in skintight pants, with suspenders hooked to a lacy, black, French-style bra. Bare midriff. Curves. Galore. Long, painted fingernails. Pouty mouth. Flawless skin. Sculptured cheekbones. Her hair a cloud of black tresses.

The word sultry comes to mind.

"It was more or less girlish before," Jackson said, describing her earlier image. "My manager wanted to get away from that. I always made sure that I was totally covered. My manager kept telling me 'you

The woman with the pixie voice, who is also the national spokeswoman for Nancy Reagan's 'Just Say No' anti-drug campaign, is trying to make a name for herself, but being a sister of Michael and Janet doesn't help because comparisons are inevitable.



LaToya Jackson: along with her new image comes a new sound

can't do that." But the woman with the pixie voice, who is also the national spokeswoman for Nancy Reagan's 'Just Say No' anti-drug campaign, isn't yet com-

pletely comfortable with her steamy new persona. "He has me wearing—I still get embarrassed saying it—beaded bras and things," Jackson said with a nervous giggle.

"It's a giant step for me. It took everything for me to do that." "She was a very quiet girl with a headband," Gordon said. "I removed the headband. She used to wear those baggy

clothes. I told her to wear form-fitting clothes. We just changed her look and made her a very sexy, classy-looking woman."

What would make a shy and reluctant ingenue allow the transformation into a sexpot?

"It's the feeling that you get when you are up there on the stage," Jackson said. "It's like turning on a lightbulb. The minute you are on stage it goes click. It feels good to know that you are pleasing someone musically."

Along with her new image comes a new sound, Gordon said — harder, funkier, uptempo, a street beat. Jackson is also recording a new album, as yet unnamed, that will be released shortly after her debut.

And she's got a new show that promises to be as lavish a spectacle as any Michael Jackson production. LaToya will open the show by cruising out on stage on a black motorcycle in a haze of smoke, fire and explosions.

She will be accompanied by an eight-piece band who will be sporting purple, red and green hair. The show will feature leasers, lights and "dance routines that nobody has ever seen before," Gordon said.

Much, if not all, of the Jackson family is expected to attend LaToya's premier, as are scores of celebrities personally invited by the Trump organization. There are even hints that "the gloved one" himself will be there.

But perhaps, most important, booking agents will be in the audience. Gordon and Jackson believe her debut will catapult her into the stratosphere of superstardom she has thus far been unable to achieve.

"This is the year for LaToya," Gordon said.

"Absolutely guaranteed. She'll win so many Grammys, she won't be able to count them." Record labels and management aside, the question of talent still remains. Does she have the same magical gifts as her more famous siblings?

"That is the \$64,000 question," Love said. "She hasn't been able to display that talent as of yet. That is what we are waiting on."



Fighting back: Mel (right) with sister Kim

Fighting cancer with music

POP star Mel Appleby is fighting crippling spine cancer by returning to the recording studio.

"Sitting down and doing nothing is not how I am going to get better," said the 22-year-old singer from the duo Mel and Kim.

Mel's first public appearance for nine months, she said she had spent sleepless nights worrying about facing her fans.

Doctors told her last year that she was suffering from a rare tumour of the nerve cells which was treated in hospital with chemotherapy. She had an earlier tumour removed from her liver in 1985.

Using crutches for support and a wig to conceal hair loss caused by the treatment, she told a press conference in London: "I knew I was not going to die, I was not going to let that happen."

"Now, although I have finished my course of treatment, there is a possibility that it will come back. But I do not want to worry about that. I just want to get on with my career."

"Getting back into the recording studio is definitely an inspiration and the doctors have said it is good therapy," Elder sister Kim, 26, said. "Mel has a zest for life. She has a lot to live for."

Mel and Kim, from London's East End, found fame in 1986 and have had three Top 10 hits.

Jackson keeps his grip on US charts

Aswad on top again

NEW YORK, (AP): Michael Jackson and his Man In The Mirror kept a strong grip for the third week in a row at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States.

Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car by Billy Ocean hopped up one notch to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart. Rick Astley's Never Gonna Give You Up slipped from second to third position.

Climbing steadily on the ten top pop list was Devil Inside by INXS, up from ninth to sixth.

New to the list this week were Girlfriend by Pebbles, up from 11th to 8th, and Wishing Well by Terence Trent D'Arby, up from 13th to 9th.

As for the Country and Western singles, George Strait's Famous Last Words of a Fool took over the number one spot on the Cash Box magazine chart. Eddie Rabbitt's I Wanna Dance With You was second, and K.T. Oslin's I'll Always Come Back was third.

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Man In The Mirror — Michael Jackson (Epic).
2. (3) Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean (Five-Arista).
3. (2) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA).
4. (4) Endless Summer Nights — Richard Marx (EMI-Manhattan).
5. (7) Rocket 2 U — The Jets (MCA).
6. (9) Devil Inside — Inxs (Atlantic).
7. (10) Where Do Broken Hearts Go — Whitney Houston (Arista).
8. (11) Girlfriend — Pebbles (MCA).
9. (13) Wishing Well — Terence Trent D'Arby (Columbia).
10. (6) I Want Her — Keith Sweat (Vintertainment-Elektra).

The ten top Country-Western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Famous Last Words Of A Fool — George Strait (MCA).

2. (3) I Wanna Dance With You — Eddie Rabbitt (RCA).
3. (7) I'll Always Come Back — K.T. Oslin (RCA).
4. (5) Strangers Again — Holly Dunn (Mtn).
5. (8) Cry, Cry, Cry — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).
6. (1) Love Will Find Its Way To You — Reba McEntire (MCA).
7. (9) It's Such A Small World — Rodney Crowell and Rosanne Cash (Columbia).
8. (11) The Last Resort — T. Graham Brown (Capitol).
9. (10) If Ole Hank Could Only See Us Now — Waylon Jennings (MCA).
10. (13) Americana — Moe Bandy (Curb).

And in London, Aswad, a three-man reggae group, stayed atop the British pop singles chart for the third consecutive week with "Don't Turn Around."

Can I Play With Madness by Iron Maiden pushed up to second, switching places with Drop The Bomb by Bros.

Could've Been by Tiffany spun its wheels in fourth place, ahead of the fast-selling Heart by Pet Shop Boys, which jumped from 22nd to fifth.

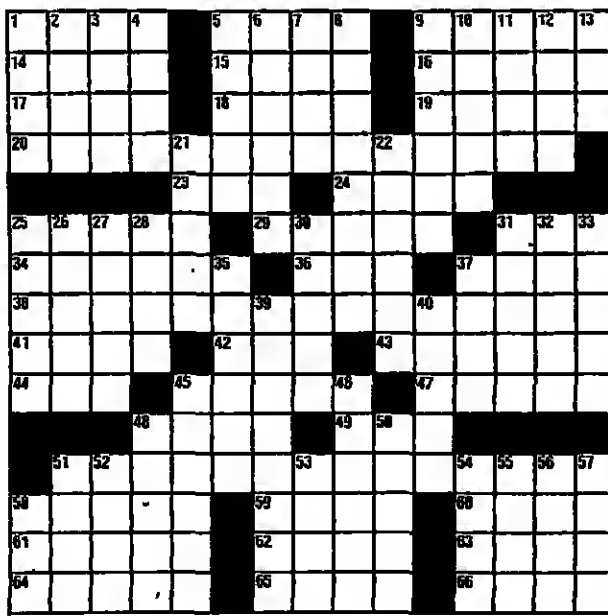
Cross My Broken Heart by Sinitta moved up two places to seventh.

The other newcomers in the top 10 were I'm Not Scared by Eighth Wonder in eighth place and Bass by Simon Harris in 10th.

This week's top listings, as compiled by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (1) Don't Turn Around — Aswad — Mango
2. (3) Can I Play With Madness — Iron Maiden — EMI
3. (2) Drop The Bomb — Bros — CBS
4. (4) Could've Been — Tiffany — MCA
5. (22) Heart — Pet Shop Boys — Parlophone
6. (5) Stay On These Roads — A-Ha — Warner Bros.
7. (9) Cross My Broken Heart — Sinitta — Fanfare
8. (13) I'm Not Scared — Eighth Wonder — CBS
9. (16) Never These Dreams — Heart — Capitol

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Fashion
 - 5 Part of a parrot's beak
 - 9 Supper
 - 14 Wicked
 - 15 Baseball family name
 - 16 Itinerary
 - 17 Home of note
 - 18 Han house
 - 19 Book of maps
 - 20 Vex verily
 - 23 Peer Gynt's mother
 - 24 Wallet fillers
 - 25 Brilliance
 - 29 Beetle Bailey character
 - 31 Phooey!
 - 34 "I, Claudius" author Robert
 - 36 XXVI doubled
 - 37 Deify
 - 38 Vex verily
 - 41 Paradise
 - 42 Female ruff
 - 43 Worker ant
 - 44 June bug
 - 45 Edith or Maurice of theater fame
 - 47 Onagers
 - 48 Graduate's exam
 - 49 Sports
 - 51 Vex verily
 - 58 Group of African languages
 - 59 Self-important
 - 60 Wild cry of yore
 - 61 Equestrian
 - 62 River past Enniskillen
 - 63 Network
 - 64 Scented, of old
 - 65 Captains' diaries
 - 66 Unique person
- DOWN**
- 1 Possessed
 - 2 Always
 - 3 Type of skirt
 - 4 Croat or Czech
 - 5 Son of Vulcan
 - 6 Ties a quick "knot"
 - 7 Type of beer
 - 8 State of well-being
 - 9 Third-party payer
 - 10 Small quantities
 - 11 — and void
 - 12 And others: Abbr.
 - 13 — Moines
 - 21 Rusty
 - 22 Driving force
 - 25 Encouraged, with "on"
 - 26 System of belief
 - 27 Procrastinator's word
 - 28 Stratford's river
 - 30 Priscilla
 - 31 Adriatic winds
 - 32 Intense
 - 33 Expect
 - 35 African wildcat
 - 37 Limbs
 - 39 Denver is one mile above it
 - 40 Air current
 - 45 City near Leipzig
 - 46 — is "believing"
 - 48 Many times
 - 50 Rural routes
 - 51 Barrier of a sort
 - 52 Wavy, in heraldry
 - 53 Card game
 - 54 Leander's love
 - 55 Neutral
 - 56 Way of learning, with "by"
 - 57 Crystal gazer
 - 58 Sibling, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

TABU CHIP STARS
WHEN HADA COVET
OATS AVER ANITA
BACKSEATORIVIER
AIT EIC
STERNE CAME THE
PADRE ARLO DRAT
UNDERONESBREATH
RAIO MEMO EMILE
SSE TETE AMATOL
SAG VAN
FRONTANDCENTER
LOPAT IRON OLAN
AVAIL BORG ISTO
BELLE SPEE DEED

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠KQJ954 ♥84 ♦762 ♣93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Even though you have a rather weak hand, it is still your duty to steer the contract to the best spot. Bid two spades. That is regressive, promising little more than a minimum response and long spades.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ52 ♥KJ1043 ♦85 ♣93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You have enough for a move toward game. However, you cannot bid two spades—that would be a reverse and, by responder, would be forcing to game. Therefore, all you can do is make an invitational raise to two no trump—since you hold so much in the majors, partner surely has the minors well stopped.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠KJ1043 ♥AQ52 ♦85 ♣93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You are worth one forward-going bid, and this time it's obvious—bid two hearts. Responder's rebid in a suit ranking lower than his first bid is not forcing on this auction, but you must not overlook the possibility of a 4-4 heart fit.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠KJ1043 ♥AQ52 ♦85 ♣93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Thus far you have shown no additional values—you would bid two hearts on a dead minimum two-suiter as well. To confirm that you have invitational values, rebid two no trump. That shows 5-4 in the majors since you bid spades before hearts, while protecting against the possibility that partner gave a false

preference with only a doubleton spade.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KJ73 ♥AQ5 ♦QJ7 ♣K102
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Despite your excellent support for partner's suit, you still have a minimum no trump opening bid. Partner is expecting a hand something like the one you have—it contains no surprise except, perhaps, a fourth trump. Pass.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KJ63 ♥85 ♦K95 ♣AQ102
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Whether or not you play fourth-suit forcing, you should take the same action now—bid two no trump. You have a stopper in the fourth suit. If that's what partner wants, your tenaces indicate that you should be declarer at a no trump contract.



"You get the drinks in, while I try and find us a table."



"But, I wasn't stealing! The shopping trolley took me to the left and out the exit!"

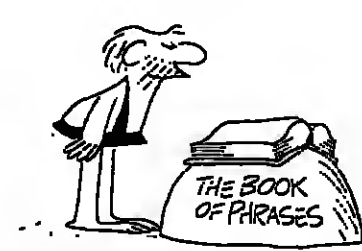
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY OTTAVIO PAPER AND JOHNNY HART



B.C.

coffee break.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You should beware of making a fool of yourself. Try to see things from other people's point of view too. Do not expect others to do your dirty work for you. Be more moderate.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
Do not do more than one thing at one time. You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do. You should not try using force where persuasion has failed. Be prompt.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You will be more decisive than you have been of late. You will be able to have a bit of harmless fun. Avoid spending as though there were no tomorrow. Be resilient.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
You will come to the right conclusion. You will be able to resolve a conflict. You should avoid doing anything that might give offence. Be a little more cautious.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
You should not make any kind of omission of yourself. Do not allow your emotions to get out of control. Try not to do anything for which you are either too old or too young. Be generous.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You should not waste time chattering. You will not be at your best so try to take things more as they come. You will not have all the luck you hoped for. Be frank.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
Not everything is as it should be but there is not much you can do about it just now. You must take measures to curb expenditure. Take a little more interest in what is going on around you. Be fair.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You are rather too given to generalizations. You will be able to take the initiative but should make sure you are heading the right way. Do not altogether neglect something that has to be done though you do not like doing it. Be firm.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
The solution is staring you in the face but you are liable to miss it. You will not be all that persuasive today. Do your utmost to avoid any complications. Be tactful.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
The moon's less favourable influence may make it more difficult for you to maintain absolute harmony. You will tend to feel rather tired and should make sure you get enough sleep. Do not get into an argument. Be optimistic.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You should have more faith and confidence in yourself. You will be able to make the right decision. Make sure you keep love alive. Be sensible.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
Instead of being nostalgic you should look forward. Do not become sentimental about something that were best put behind you. Try to show a little more commonsense. Be sincere.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Investors' stance baffles analysts

Kuwaitis adopt hands-on business strategy in Spain

MADRID, April 8. (Reuters): The Kuwaitis, among the biggest foreign investors in Spain, are adopting a hands-on business strategy that puzzles analysts within the country and beyond.

The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), the Gulf state's investment arm with a holding portfolio of firms in the United States, West Germany, Britain and France, has tended to shy away from trying to run the companies in which it puts its petrodollars.

But in Spain — where it now seems set to add control of the oil's biggest sugar producer to its expanding interests — it has both been attracted to firms that have not been highly profitable and has acted to shake up managements.

Fascinated

"Everyone here is fascinated by the Kuwaitis because nobody really knows what they are up to," said Monica Morales, a director of Investcorp, a Madrid-based finance house.

Some analysts speculate that the KIO is making a trial run of tactics that it might pursue elsewhere.

Others simply see it reacting to the particular conditions of Spanish business.

Either way, Spanish bankers and businessmen say they have been surprised by the boldness of recent KIO investments in property, banking, chemicals, sugar-refining and fertilisers.

And a senior government official, who spoke on condition he was not identified, said the KIO was recently asked to inform the administration beforehand of any major new investments it intended to make in Spain.

The Kuwaitis, who have conducted many of their investments through a Spanish company called Torras Hostosch, have also been asked not to take control of banks, defence firms or companies with interests in the media.

"We have made meetings with KIO officials and we have established ground rules," the government official said. "We have been given assurances by the Kuwaitis that they are long-term investors."

The London-based KIO's general manager, Fouad Gaffar, said: "Our relations with the Spanish government are excellent and we are very, very happy with them."

He declined comment on Kuwait investments in Spain, which analysts estimated at between \$2 and \$3 billion.

"Spain is probably being used by the KIO as a test-tube for some new ideas, such as a more hands-on attitude towards management," said a US banker, who asked not to be identified.

Activity

But bankers in Kuwait itself said they thought the KIO favoured a management role in Spain mainly to safeguard its investments in what is considered a riskier legal and economic environment than in other West European countries.

The KIO's major investment vehicle in Spain is Torras Hostosch, in which it owns a 45-per cent stake. Torras is chaired by KIO's chairman Sheikh Fahad Al Sabah, although the managing director, Jorge Nunez, is a Spaniard.

The Kuwaitis bought Torras, whose main activity is paper processing, cheap in 1986 and last year recapitalised it with a \$5 billion peseta (\$485 million) rights issue, the largest in Spanish corporate history.

Torras used the proceeds to buy Cros Sa, a Barcelona-based fertiliser firm, and a 24.5-per cent stake in Union Explosivos Rio Tinto which has interests in chemicals and fertilisers.

The KIO's boldest Spanish investments have been in asset-rich companies with a poor profit record, a stockbroker in London said, which seemed to contrast with a normal strategy elsewhere of making portfolio investments in blue-chip firms.

A London-based analyst said: "The Kuwaitis have shown great vision in Spain and are in it for the long term. They have invested very shrewdly."

Neglected

They were prepared to put money into sectors such as chemicals and fertilisers which had been neglected by Spanish businessmen, the analyst added.

But, while London stock analysts praise the KIO's sense of timing and its sharp eye for undervalued companies with hidden assets, some Spanish commentators fail to see a clear strategy.

Torras recently bought a minority stake in Grupo Zeta, a newspaper publishing group, but sold it again after the government told it that investments in the sector were not welcome, the government official said.

Nunez, Torras' managing director, has responded in critics who say KIO has only short-term interests in Spain. "Two hundred and fifty billion pesetas (\$2.2 billion) are very difficult to disinvest," he said in a television interview.

Torras' latest move was to launch a hostile bid for Ebro, Spain's leading sugar refiner which it says it wants to turn into an international food group.

Ebro, after initially opposing the bid, said after talks with KIO on April 6 it was accepting a friendly takeover.

KIO purchases last year included stake-holding in two banks — it took stakes of 4.65 per cent in Banco de Vizcaya and just under seven per cent in Banco Central.

The government then told the Kuwaitis it opposed a foreign takeover of a major Spanish bank, the government official said.

The KIO sold back its Vizcaya stake to the bank last October. "It was very well executed, they bought cheap and sold it back for a lot of money," a US banker said.

Stake

Theo KIO pooled its stake in Central with Spanish investors in a joint holding company, Cartera Central.

The government official said: "We would prefer the stake in Banco Central to be totally in Spanish hands but we accept this situation as a compromise."

KIO's team includes Javier de la Rosa, a deputy chairman of Torras Hostosch, who has a background in Spanish banking. He was formerly a top official at the now defunct Baes de Gariga Nogueas, a banking subsidiary of Banco Espanol de Credito, wound up in 1986 after running up debts of 73.8 billion pesetas (\$640 million).

NEW YORK, April 8. (Reuters): The United States and six other leading industrial nations are expected to agree next week to try to keep the dollar at roughly its current level, the New York Times said today.

It quoted American and foreign officials as confirming speculation in financial markets that after a couple of weeks of currency turbulence the countries want a steady dollar and will do what they can to keep it level. The dollar received a big lift on Wednesday from reports that Group of Seven leaders would put a floor under the dollar at 125 yen. Japanese government officials denied this a day later, saying there was no specific floor. The newspaper quoted an unidentified US administration official as saying: "We are pleased with the degree of exchange-rate stability that we've had since the December 22 statement" — a reference to G-7 attempts to halt a dollar decline after the October stock market collapse.

The officials also said G-7 could report some progress on a proposal by US Treasury Secretary James Baker to use prices of gold and other commodities to guide economic policy. But while Baker favours immediate adoption of such an index, other nations could urge delay, the Times said. A leading international monetary official in Washington was quoted as echoing the American view, saying: "The present level of the dollar is broadly satisfactory now."

He said there was room for some slight additional change but would not say whether he meant a stronger or weaker dollar.

The New York Times said the official declined to comment on the rough ranges the G-7 countries had agreed for the dollar's exchange rate, but confirmed they exist. He said they would remain in effect until significant shifts in the underlying world economic forces, such as growth rates and trade balances, require adjustments of the kind that occurred twice last year.

Major 'nations growing at least another 2 years'

WASHINGTON, April 8. (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund believes the economies of major industrial countries can keep growing for at least another two years, monetary sources said yesterday.

If the largest countries keep up progress in ironing out their trade imbalances, the economic upturn, nearly six years old in the United States, could continue for even longer, according to the IMF. The sources said the IMF in the past had underestimated the strength of the economies in the industrial countries and was surprised by the relative ease with which they recovered from the October stock market crash.

The IMF is predicting 2.6 per cent growth this year and 2.8 per cent next year in the main industrial countries. Although this would be less than the three per cent pace achieved in 1987, the fund's economists now acknowledge that they were hasty in scaling back their forecast for 1988 after the stock market crash. The IMF, the sources said, is not completely satisfied with the rate of growth, acknowledging it is less than the three per cent level considered necessary to keep economic growth going in the developing world. But, the sources said, it is better than might have been expected following the crash.

They warned, however, a second stock market crash could have a far worse impact on the world economy. The fund views the crash as the most vivid demonstration yet of the close links between stocks and currency markets but is encouraged by how countries are coordinating their policies to avert another financial market crash. Exchange rates, for instance, are now relatively stable.

Speaking just before next week's spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the sources said the IMF hopes to get agreement on a new financing facility that would give debtor countries more breathing room in the economic programmes they negotiate with the fund.

Another US stock market crash possible: Amex chief

WASHINGTON, April 8. (AP): The lack of progress toward substantially cutting the US budget deficit and reforming government market regulation threatens to cause another stock crash, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange said yesterday.

"The conditions that created the atmosphere in which a market meltdown nearly occurred are still present — creating a kind of economic time bomb that threatens the whole system," Arthur Levitt Jr. told a National Press Club luncheon.

Levitt said the budget deficit "has not been satisfactorily addressed," and he complained that "regulatory solutions ... have been debated but not enacted."

However, he declined to single out either Congress or the administration of President Ronald Reagan for blame. Both are about equally responsible for failure to reduce the budget deficit, he said. Levitt heads the third-largest trading system in the United States, ranking behind the New York Stock Exchange and the over-the-counter market.

On regulatory reform, Levitt said Congress is hampered by committees "jockeying for jurisdictional control." And, he said, although the Reagan administration has spent the past seven years trying to reduce regulation, it must now recognise "the protection of the public must be the foremost consideration."

Levitt called for the creation of a special study commission that, without delaying congressional and administration efforts at finding short-term solutions, would focus on reform for the next decade.

World Bank to give aid to Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia, April 8. (AP): The World Bank will lend Indonesia \$200 million a year to help restructure its textile industry, an industrialist said today.

H. Chamroel Djafri, an executive of the Indonesian Textile Association, said the first loan, carrying a 15 per cent interest rate, should be available on Jan. 1, 1989. He gave no further details about the terms, including how long the World Bank would continue to provide the aid.

He said the funds would be channelled to industrialists through commercial banks.

Indonesia had asked for about \$1 billion annually for a 10-year period, he added.

Djafri said much of Indonesia's textile industry has aging equipment that needs replacement.

The textile industry, one of Indonesia's major foreign exchange earners, contributed \$1 billion to the country's \$8.7 billion of non-oil export earnings in 1987.

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The textile industry, one of Indonesia's major foreign exchange earners, contributed \$1 billion to the country's \$8.7 billion of non-oil export earnings in 1987.

Funds

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World Business Summary

G-7 accord indicated on stable dollar: study

NEW YORK, April 8. (Reuters): The United States and six other leading industrial nations are expected to agree next week to try to keep the dollar at roughly its current level, the New York Times said today. It quoted American and foreign officials as confirming speculation in financial markets that after a couple of weeks of currency turbulence the countries want a steady dollar and will do what they can to keep it level. The dollar received a big lift on Wednesday from reports that Group of Seven leaders would put a floor under the dollar at 125 yen. Japanese government officials denied this a day later, saying there was no specific floor. The newspaper quoted an unidentified US administration official as saying: "We are pleased with the degree of exchange-rate stability that we've had since the December 22 statement" — a reference to G-7 attempts to halt a dollar decline after the October stock market collapse.

The officials also said G-7 could report some progress on a proposal by US Treasury Secretary James Baker to use prices of gold and other commodities to guide economic policy. But while Baker favours immediate adoption of such an index, other nations could urge delay, the Times said. A leading international monetary official in Washington was quoted as echoing the American view, saying: "The present level of the dollar is broadly satisfactory now."

He said there was room for some slight additional change but would not say whether he meant a stronger or weaker dollar.

The New York Times said the official declined to comment on the rough ranges the G-7 countries had agreed for the dollar's exchange rate, but confirmed they exist. He said they would remain in effect until significant shifts in the underlying world economic forces, such as growth rates and trade balances, require adjustments of the kind that occurred twice last year.

Major 'nations growing at least another 2 years'

WASHINGTON, April 8. (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund believes the economies of major industrial countries can keep growing for at least another two years, monetary sources said yesterday.

If the largest countries keep up progress in ironing out their trade imbalances, the economic upturn, nearly six years old in the United States, could continue for even longer, according to the IMF. The sources said the IMF in the past had underestimated the strength of the economies in the industrial countries and was surprised by the relative ease with which they recovered from the October stock market crash.

The IMF is predicting 2.6 per cent growth this year and 2.8 per cent next year in the main industrial countries. Although this would be less than the three per cent pace achieved in 1987, the fund's economists now acknowledge that they were hasty in scaling back their forecast for 1988 after the stock market crash. The IMF, the sources said, is not completely satisfied with the rate of growth, acknowledging it is less than the three per cent level considered necessary to keep economic growth going in the developing world. But, the sources said, it is better than might have been expected following the crash.

They warned, however, a second stock market crash could have a far worse impact on the world economy. The fund views the crash as the most vivid demonstration yet of the close links between stocks and currency markets but is encouraged by how countries are coordinating their policies to avert another financial market crash. Exchange rates, for instance, are now relatively stable.

Speaking just before next week's spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the sources said the IMF hopes to get agreement on a new financing facility that would give debtor countries more breathing room in the economic programmes they negotiate with the fund.

Another US stock market crash possible: Amex chief

WASHINGTON, April 8. (AP): The lack of progress toward substantially cutting the US budget deficit and reforming government market regulation threatens to cause another stock crash, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange said yesterday.

"The conditions that created the atmosphere in which a market meltdown nearly occurred are still present — creating a kind of economic time bomb that threatens the whole system," Arthur Levitt Jr. told a National Press Club luncheon.

Levitt said the budget deficit "has not been satisfactorily addressed," and he complained that "regulatory solutions ... have been debated but not enacted."

However, he declined to single out either Congress or the administration of President Ronald Reagan for blame. Both are about equally responsible for failure to reduce the budget deficit, he said. Levitt heads the third-largest trading system in the United States, ranking behind the New York Stock Exchange and the over-the-counter market.

On regulatory reform, Levitt said Congress is hampered by committees "jockeying for jurisdictional control." And, he said, although the Reagan administration has spent the past seven years trying to reduce regulation, it must now recognise "the protection of the public must be the foremost consideration."

Levitt called for the creation of a special study commission that, without delaying congressional and administration efforts at finding short-term solutions, would focus on reform for the next decade.

Conable urges more efforts to cut Third World debt

WASHINGTON, April 8. (AP): World Bank president Barber Conable says industrialised countries must make more efforts to help Third World nations reduce their trillion-dollar debt, a position that is not shared by many conservative officials.

Conable's stand, in a report submitted to the bank's board of executive directors, contrasts with the view that countries must be held strictly accountable for their debts.

In the report, a copy of which was made available to the Associated Press, Conable said the conservative view is basically at odds with the institution's primary goal of helping poorer countries in develop.

Biggest

The World Bank, which is owned by its 151 member governments, is the biggest single lender to the Third World. It approved more than \$17.5 billion in loans in the fiscal year ending in June 1987.

Conable said the most heavily indebted countries are saddled with payments that are becoming unsustainable. He submitted figures showing that 17 of the most heavily indebted countries paid out \$32 billion last year in interest alone.

Wealthier nations are starting to recognise that such monumental debt payments sap the poorer countries' capacity to buy imports, thereby weakening the export economies of developed nations.

<

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

| NAME | LAST |
|------------|-------|
| ABBEY LIFE | 263.0 |
| ADT LTD | 109.4 |
| ALD LYONS | 390.0 |
| AMSTRAD | 165.0 |
| ARGYLL GP | 202.0 |
| ASDA GP | 171.0 |
| BAA PP | 109.0 |
| BAT | 260.0 |
| BAT INDS | 433.0 |
| BARCLATS | 426.0 |
| BASS | 842.0 |
| BEAZER | 177.0 |
| BECHAMS | 443.0 |
| BET ORD | 236.0 |
| BICC PLC | 316.0 |
| BLUE ARW | 119.4 |
| BLUE CIRC | 439.0 |
| BOC GP | 373.5 |
| BOOTS CO | 219.0 |
| BPB INDS | 295.0 |
| BR COMM | 283.0 |
| BR AIRWAY | 170.0 |
| BR AEROSP | 413.0 |
| BR GAS RG | 179.0 |
| BR GAS PP | 138.0 |
| B.P. | 266.0 |
| B.P. NEW | 72.0 |
| B.T. TELCO | 249.0 |
| BRITOL | 502.0 |
| BURMAN OL | 512.0 |
| BURTON | 238.0 |
| CABLEWIR | 337.0 |
| CADURYS | 223.0 |
| COATS VVY | 268.0 |
| COMM UN | 327.0 |
| COMS GOLD | 895.0 |
| COOKSORS | 589.5 |
| COURTAUD | 28.67 |
| DALGETT | 270.5 |
| DEE CP | 173.0 |
| DIXONS | 172.0 |
| ENG CHINA | 388.0 |
| ENTER OIL | 351.0 |
| FERRANTI | 79.42 |
| FISONS | 924.0 |
| GEN ACCO | 267.0 |
| GEN ELEC | 142.0 |
| GLAXO | 008.0 |
| GRAMADA | 327.0 |
| GLOBE | 137.0 |
| GRAHO MET | 485.0 |
| GUS A | 048.0 |
| GUARD RTL | 898.0 |
| GKN | 301.0 |
| GUINNESS | 305.0 |
| HMMERS A | 585.0 |
| NANSON | 31.37 |
| HMKR SID | 470.0 |
| HILLSDOWN | 282.0 |
| ICI | 000.0 |
| INT | 190.0 |

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

| NAME | CLOSE | OPEN |
|------------|-------|-------|
| 2ND ALLCE | 684.0 | 680.0 |
| 600 GROUP | 106.0 | 106.0 |
| A.B. ELECT | 414.0 | 418.0 |
| AAH HLD | 253.0 | 253.0 |
| AARONSON | 122.0 | 123.0 |
| ADDISON | 94.0 | 94.0 |
| ADVEST | 302.0 | 301.0 |
| ALEX WKKV | 157.0 | 155.0 |
| ALLO COLL | 132.0 | 132.0 |
| ALLO IR B | 220.0 | 220.0 |
| ALLO PLNT | 49.4 | 49.4 |
| ALLIANCE | 754.0 | 753.0 |
| AMARI | 178.0 | 178.0 |
| AMEC | 370.0 | 375.0 |
| AMER TRST | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| AMERSHAM | 467.0 | 468.0 |
| ANI HLTHC | 261.0 | 261.0 |
| AMI NEW | 261.0 | 261.0 |
| ANGLO O'S | 191.0 | 192.0 |
| ANSBACHER | 65.0 | 66.0 |
| APPLEYARD | 394.0 | 394.0 |
| APRICOT | 104.0 | 105.0 |
| APV PLC | 120.0 | 120.0 |
| AQUAS.A. | 72.0 | 71.0 |
| ARAN EHER | 74.0 | 74.0 |
| ARLINGTON | 192.0 | 193.0 |
| ARMSTRONG | 137.0 | 137.0 |
| ASINLEY.LA | 114.0 | 114.0 |
| ATMOSDS | 278.0 | 278.0 |
| AUS REE A | 208.0 | 207.0 |
| AUS REED | 343.0 | 340.0 |
| AVON RUBB | 648.0 | 648.0 |
| B. NEWELL | 165.0 | 165.0 |
| BAILL JAP | 500.0 | 500.0 |
| BANKER IT | 67.0 | 67.0 |
| BARKER DO | 145.0 | 144.0 |
| BARRT DEV | 190.0 | 188.0 |
| BEJAM GP | 168.0 | 167.0 |
| BELHAVEN | 49.0 | 49.0 |
| BELLWAY | 240.0 | 240.0 |
| BENROSE | 205.0 | 205.0 |
| BENLOX HD | 58.0 | 58.0 |
| BENTALLS | 193.0 | 193.0 |
| BERISFORD | 274.0 | 274.0 |
| BH GROUP | 109.0 | 108.0 |
| BIRNIO OL | 369.0 | 370.0 |
| BLK LE 2 | 18.2 | 18.4 |
| BLK LE 2 | 18.2 | 18.4 |
| BHMET +F | 35.0 | 35.0 |
| BOASE HAS | 262.0 | 264.0 |
| BODDINGTON | 133.0 | 133.0 |
| BOOKER | 381.0 | 380.0 |
| BOOTH HEHR | 340.0 | 338.0 |
| BORTHWICK | 42.0 | 42.0 |
| BOUWATER | 386.0 | 385.0 |
| BOUWTHORPE | 165.0 | 167.0 |
| BR ASSETS | 62.4 | 62.0 |
| BR OREGDI | 115.0 | 116.0 |
| BR LAM | 302.0 | 300.0 |

LONDON
(Gamma Stocks)

| NAME | CLOSE | OPEN |
|------------|-------|-------|
| BR VITA | 428.0 | 428.0 |
| BRENNER | 233.0 | 233.0 |
| BRENT CHE | 134.0 | 136.0 |
| BRENT WKR | 350.0 | 350.0 |
| BRIDON | 153.0 | 152.0 |
| BRITANNIC | 053.0 | 050.0 |
| BRIXTON E | 274.0 | 274.0 |
| BRUNNER | 104.0 | 104.0 |
| BSG INTL | 57.0 | 57.0 |
| BULMER HP | 177.0 | 175.0 |
| BURGESS | 219.0 | 219.0 |
| CALEDONIA | 338.0 | 335.0 |
| CALOR GRP | 550.0 | 553.0 |
| CAMB ELEC | 221.0 | 221.0 |
| CANNING W | 185.0 | 185.0 |
| CANNON ST | 264.0 | 265.0 |
| CAP GRP | 205.0 | 204.0 |
| CAP-RADIO | 181.0 | 180.0 |
| CARDON | 296.0 | 295.0 |
| CARLOS EN | 166.0 | 167.0 |
| CARLESS C | 102.0 | 102.0 |
| CARLTON C | 736.0 | 738.0 |
| CASE GRP | 80.0 | 80.0 |
| CATER ALL | 355.0 | 355.0 |
| CENTL ITV | 523.0 | 523.0 |
| CHARTERNA | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| CHAS CHUR | 115.0 | 115.0 |
| CHATER CN | 329.0 | 328.0 |
| CHLORIDE | 47.0 | 47.0 |
| CHRISTIES | 509.0 | 510.0 |
| CI GROUP | 43.0 | 43.0 |
| CLYDE PET | 119.0 | 120.0 |
| CONTRL SEC | 54.0 | 55.0 |
| COALITE | 294.0 | 294.0 |
| COATES BR | 322.0 | 325.0 |
| COLLINS A | 485.0 | 485.0 |
| COLLINS W | 580.0 | 578.0 |
| COLOROLL | 174.0 | 174.0 |
| COSTANT | 322.0 | 320.0 |
| COURTS A | 178.0 | 178.0 |
| COURTS FR | 258.0 | 258.0 |
| COMIE (T) | 107.0 | 108.0 |
| CREST NIT | 204.0 | 204.0 |
| CRODA | 117.0 | 116.0 |
| CRODA INT | 190.0 | 190.0 |
| CROWTHER | 168.0 | 169.0 |
| CROSTEN JA | 148.0 | 149.0 |
| CRYSTALAT | 150.0 | 150.0 |
| CRANES EST | 29.4 | 29.0 |
| DAWSON IN | 190.0 | 190.0 |
| DE LA RUE | 373.0 | 372.0 |
| DELTA GRP | 281.0 | 281.0 |
| DELTA | 281.0 | 281.0 |
| ORAYTON C | 428.0 | 424.0 |
| DRAITON J | 958.0 | 955.0 |
| DRG | 362.0 | 363.0 |
| DUNHILL | 179.0 | 180.0 |
| EAGLE RFD | 17.0 | 17.0 |
| EAGLE TST | 17.4 | 17.4 |
| ELECTRA | 145.0 | 145.0 |
| EDINBURGH | 203.0 | 203.0 |
| ELECTRON | 197.0 | 198.0 |
| ELIUS EVA | 177.0 | 178.0 |
| ELIUS GOL | 59.0 | 59.0 |
| EMAL | 181.0 | 180.0 |
| EMPIRE ST | 214.0 | 213.0 |
| EURO M RG | 219.0 | 220.0 |
| EUROTRON | 338.0 | 337.0 |
| EUROTRON | 327.0 | 327.0 |
| EVERED HIL | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| EVODE GRP | 157.0 | 157.0 |
| F & C PAC | 128.0 | 128.0 |
| FARNELL E | 163.0 | 163.0 |
| FEH. HOUNS | 273.0 | 273.0 |
| FENNER JH | 167.0 | 167.0 |
| FERGUSON | 274.0 | 273.0 |
| FINE ARTS | 210.0 | 210.0 |
| FINLAIN GP | 77.0 | 77.0 |
| FINLAY J | 84.0 | 83.0 |
| FITCH LOV | 257.0 | 257.0 |
| FEL BARCK | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| FLING AMR | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| FLING CLAV | 230.0 | 229.0 |
| FLING FEA | 177.0 | 178.0 |
| FLING JAPN | 207.0 | 206.0 |
| FLING MERC | 166.0 | 166.0 |
| FLING OSEA | 144.0 | 144.0 |
| FLING TECH | 154.0 | 154.0 |
| FLING UNIV | 135.0 | 135.0 |
| FOSECO MI | 230.0 | 230.0 |
| FR GROUP | 273.0 | 274.0 |
| FRESHBANK | 101.0 | 100.0 |
| FST LEISR | 139.0 | 138.0 |
| FST NAT F | 231.0 | 234.0 |
| FST SCOT | 385.0 | 386.0 |
| FUR & COL | 99.4 | 99.0 |
| GARDINER | 48.0 | 48.0 |
| GEEST | 223.0 | 223.0 |
| GEI INTL | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| GESTETNER | 174.0 | 172.0 |
| GLYMED | 465.0 | 465.0 |
| GPE | 78.0 | 78.0 |
| GRAPPH M | 260.0 | 260.0 |
| GREEN KNG | 451.0 | 450.0 |
| GREENW L | 210.0 | 211.0 |
| GREYCOAT | 307.0 | 306.0 |
| GRUP TV A | 44.0 | 45.0 |
| GT. PTIND | 298.0 | 298.0 |
| GUS ORD | 625.0 | 625.0 |
| GVT ATL | 116.0 | 117.0 |
| GVT ATL | 625.0 | 625.0 |
| GVT ORIE | 265.0 | 264.0 |
| GVT STRA | 211.0 | 211.0 |
| N. LIND OT | 98.0 | 98.0 |
| HALL CM | 134.0 | 135.0 |
| HALMA | 148.0 | 148.0 |
| HAMBROS I | 193.0 | 193.0 |
| HMMERSON | 613.0 | 608.0 |
| HARRISON C | 568.0 | 565.0 |
| HARTNICK | 364.0 | 365.0 |
| HELENE LN | 35.0 | 36.0 |
| HEWDEEN ST | 130.0 | 131.0 |

LONDON
(Delta Stocks)

| NAME | CLOSE | OPEN |
|------------|-------|-------|
| HEYWOOD W | 297.0 | 297.0 |
| HICKS HIL | 165.0 | 165.0 |
| HIGGS HIL | 329.0 | 330.0 |
| HINDSON GP | 369.0 | 370.0 |
| HODG TST | 224.0 | 223.0 |
| HOLLIS | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| HOLMES PR | 127.0 | 126.0 |
| HOMDEN GP | 116.0 | 116.0 |
| HPWTH CRM | 238.0 | 236.0 |
| HRSS GMS | 125.0 | 124.0 |
| HTV GROUP | 219.0 | 223.0 |
| IBSTOCK J | 175.0 | 176.0 |
| ICE.FZ. PD | 334.0 | 333.0 |
| JMRY INTL | 366.0 | 365.0 |
| INDPNT | 43.4 | 43.0 |
| INDPNT W | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| INT.BU.CM | 115.0 | 115.0 |
| INT.CITT | 165.0 | 167.0 |
| INV. CAP. | 314.0 | 313.0 |
| INVERGORD | 206.0 | 205.0 |
| JMKN.MATH | 269.0 | 269.0 |
| KALON GP | 33.0 | 33.0 |
| KENDOT BRK | 408.0 | 409.0 |
| KETSON | 68.0 | 69.0 |
| KLMRT BEN | 359.0 | 362.0 |
| KLMRT O'S | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| KLVK SAVE | 348.0 | 348.0 |
| KLVK-FIT | 186.0 | 186.0 |
| LAING 'A' | 317.0 | 316.0 |
| LAING B | 317.0 | 316.0 |
| LAING PRP | 403.0 | 403.0 |
| LAIRO GP | 228.0 | 226.0 |
| LAMONT HL | 270.0 | 271.0 |
| LANDLEISU | 292.0 | 291.0 |
| LASMO OPS | 163.0 | 165.0 |
| LAWRENCE.W | 143.0 | 143.0 |
| LDN & MAN | 270.0 | 269.0 |
| LDN & NET | 175.0 | 175.0 |
| LDN SHUP | 227.0 | 227.0 |
| LDN UTD | 206.0 | 207.0 |
| LEIGH INT | 206.0 | 207.0 |
| LEX SERV | 335.0 | 336.0 |
| LILLEY FJ | 40.0 | 40.0 |
| LIT | 30.0 | 31.0 |
| LOGICA | 245.0 | 245.0 |
| LOVELL HD | 240.0 | 241.0 |
| LOW HURD | 395.0 | 393.0 |
| LOW HURD | 395.0 | 393.0 |
| LOW HURD | 395.0 | 393.0 |
| LUT HLD | 125.0 | 126.0 |
| M.G. GRP | 391.0 | 391.0 |
| MACRO 4 | 267.0 | 272.0 |
| MAI | 95.0 | 96.0 |
| MANDERS | 382.0 | 382.0 |
| MANSFIELD | 429.0 | 428.0 |
| MARCARHTH | 281.0 | 280.0 |
| MARLEY | 145.0 | 145.0 |
| MARSTON T | 119.0 | 120.0 |
| MATTHEWS | 90.0 | 90.0 |
| MCCARTHY | 434.0 | 435.0 |
| MCCARTHY | 489.0 | 488.0 |
| MCKECHNIE | 319.0 | 318.0 |
| MENEC | 210.0 | 210.0 |
| MENZIES J | 369.0 | 368.0 |
| MERCEN.TST | 137.0 | 137.0 |
| METALRAX | 84.0 | 85.0 |
| METER INT | 379.0 | 376.0 |
| NIOSUMMER | 329.0 | 329.0 |
| NHET NO | 475.0 | 475.0 |
| NHT CHLT | 123.0 | 123.0 |
| MONKS IT | 108.0 | 108.0 |
| MOORGT N | 138.0 | 135.0 |
| MORGAN CR | 223.0 | 225.0 |
| MORGAN GF | 243.0 | 244.0 |
| MORLAND | 498.0 | 495.0 |
| MOUNTLEIG | 162.0 | 163.0 |
| MOWLEN J | 415.0 | 413.0 |
| MRSN SHM | 236.0 | 235.0 |
| MRT INCH | 175.0 | 175.0 |
| MRT INTL | 162.0 | 162.0 |
| MUCKLOW | 154.0 | 155.0 |
| N. AMER TS | 345.0 | 346.0 |
| N.ENG. IND | 93.0 | 93.0 |
| NAME | CLOSE | OPEN |
| NEUWARTH | 295.0 | 300.0 |
| NEWS INTL | 262.0 | 263.0 |
| NHAN INOS | 57.0 | 57.0 |
| NHAN TONK | 177.0 | 178.0 |
| NORCOS | 420.0 | 418.0 |
| NORFOLK C | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| NORMANS | 54.0 | 54.0 |
| NORTH OXP | 130.0 | 130.0 |
| NURON+PCO | 134.0 | 134.0 |
| OCEAN TPT | 268.0 | 265.0 |
| OCEANICS | 18.0 | 18.0 |
| OSSEY EST | 22.4 | 22.4 |
| OWNERS AB | 81.0 | 81.0 |
| P & O UTS | 67.0 | 66.0 |
| PACIFIC A | 122.0 | 123.0 |
| PEACHEY P | 414.0 | 408.0 |
| PENTLANO | 112.0 | 112.0 |
| PINCOX | 51.0 | 51.0 |
| PHOENIX | 95.0 | 95.0 |
| PICKURAM | 202.0 | 202.0 |
| PICKURAM | 176.0 | 176.0 |
| POLLIT PCK | 277.0 | 279.0 |
| POWELL DU | 334.0 | 335.0 |
| POWERSORN | 122.0 | 122.0 |
| PREEOT(A) | 152.0 | 152.0 |
| PREN CONS | 60.4 | 60.0 |
| PROUDFOOT | 276.0 | 276.0 |
| QUEENS HO | 96.0 | 96.0 |
| RATNERS | 267.0 | 268.0 |
| READICUT | 69.0 | 69.0 |
| REDFEAR | 495.0 | 495.0 |
| REFUGEE GP | 445.0 | 448.0 |
| REGALON | 152.0 | 153.0 |
| REISHAN | 54.4 | 55.0 |
| REINOLD | 54.4 | 55.0 |
| RENTOKIL | 174.0 | 173.0 |
| RNP GROUP | 188.0 | 188.0 |
| ROBINSON | 463.0 | 462.0 |
| ROCKWARE | 65.0 | 65.0 |
| RONNEY | 315.0 | 316.0 |

LONDON
(Epsilon Stocks)

| NAME | CLOSE | OPEN |
|------|-------|------|
|------|-------|------|

International Bond Highlights

Frankfurt — Portugal is issuing a 400 mln mark two-tranche Eurobond, lead manager Commerzbank AG said. It has a five-year tranche of 250 mln marks, with a five pct coupon priced at 100-1/2 and a 150 mln mark 10-year tranche with a six pct coupon priced at 99-3/4. (RTVS 0830)

London — Bergen Bank AS is issuing a 2025 billion yen floating rate note (FRN) with two tranches, lead manager (RTZG 1217)

London — BP America Inc, a unit of British Petroleum Co Plc, is issuing a 100 mln stg Eurobond due April 27, 1993, paying 9-1/2 pct and priced at 101-3/4 pct, Hambros Bank Ltd said as lead manager. (RTVJ 0857)

London — Showe Aluminium Corp is issuing a 120 mln dir aquity warrant Eurobond due April 27, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-1/2 pct and par pricing, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (RTXH 1031)

Zurich — Union Bank of Switzerland said it is issuing a 200 mln swiss franc, nine year straight bond with a 4-1/2 pct coupon end par issue price. (RTXA 0953)

Interbank Rates

| CALL | ONE MONTH | THREE MONTHS |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| LDN 8-1/8 8 | 8-1/4 1/8 | 8-5/16 3/16 |
| FFI 3.20/30 | 3.30/40 | 3.35/45 |
| PAR 7-11/16 3/4 | 7-11/16 13/16 | 8-1/8 1/8 |
| ZUR 1/8 3/8 | 1-1/2 1-3/4 | 1-5/8 1-7/8 |
| BRX 4.65 | 6.00 1/16 | 6-1/8 1/4 |
| ROM 10-1/8 10-5/8 | 10-1/2 1/16 | 10-3/4 11-1/4 |
| AMS 3-15/16 4-1/16 | 3-7/8 4-0/0 | 3-15/16 4-1/16 |
| TOK 3.3125 3750 | 3.6875 7500 | 3.8750 9375 |
| ECU 6.00 6.12 | 6.12 6.25 | 6.37 6.50 |

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.

| Period | Bid | Offered |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 month | 67/16 | 615/16 |
| 3 months | 6 | 61/2 |
| 6 months | 513/16 | 651/16 |
| 1 year | 51/2 | 6 |

BOMBAY

| PR. CLOSE | OPEN | CLOSE | GLINDIA | 66.50 | 66 | 66 MICO | 495 | 485 | 480 |
|-------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| ACC | 130 | 132 | 129 | 84 | 84.25 | 84 | 82.50 | 83 | 81 |
| ASIA PAINT | 141.25 | 142.50 | 135 | 85.50 | 84 | 81.50 | 84.00 | 84.00 | 84.00 |
| BAJAJ AUTO | 202.50 | 200 | 196.25 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 |
| BAR. RAYON | 177.50 | 175 | 175 | 65 | 64 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 |
| BOM. OYING | 125 | 124 | 121 | 79 | 79 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 |
| BR. BOND | 85 | 82 | 84 | 73.75 | 72.50 | 73.75 | 72.50 | 72.50 | 72.50 |
| BSE INDEX | 413.33 | 415.04 | 415.04 | 16.50 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 |
| CENTURYSPG | 785 | 785 | 775 | 16.50 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 |
| COLGATE | 170 | 170 | 166.50 | 145 | 142.50 | 142.50 | 142.50 | 142.50 | 142.50 |
| DEEPKAPFERT | 26 | 26 | 26 | 33.50 | 33 | 32.50 | 32.50 | 32.50 | 32.50 |
| EEL. HOTEL | 47 | 45 | 46 | 52.50 | 52.50 | 52.50 | 52.50 | 52.50 | 52.50 |
| ESKAYEF | 155 | 160 | 155 | 78.50 | 78.50 | 78.50 | 78.50 | 78.50 | 78.50 |
| ESSAR | 18 | 17.50 | 180 | 51 | 50.50 | 50.50 | 50.50 | 50.50 | 50.50 |
| GAR. POLY | 75 | 74.50 | 74 | 9.50 | 9.37 | 9.50 | 9.50 | 9.50 | 9.50 |
| GE. SHIP | 27.50 | 28.25 | 27.35 | 82.50 | 82 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 |

FRANKFURT

| STOCK | LAST PR. CLSE |
|--------------|---------------|
| AEG | 244.00 |
| ALLIANZ VR | 1375.00 |
| BADENWERK | 180.00 |
| BASF | 246.60 |
| BAYER | 267.30 |
| BAYER NYP | 353.00 |
| BAYER VER | 353.00 |
| BBC | 314.00 |
| BHF | 370.00 |
| BIM | 504.00 |
| CHENIE-VER | 0.1200 |
| COMMERZBANK | 235.50 |
| CONTI GUM | 253.60 |
| DAIMLER | 629.00 |
| DEUTSCHE BIK | 425.30 |
| DLW | 345.00 |
| DRESNER 8 | 250.00 |
| DT BARCOCK | 160.00 |
| FAZ INDEX | 458.04 |
| GOLDSCHEID | 254.00 |
| HOFFMEIER | 170.00 |
| HARPENST | 408.00 |
| HOECHST AG | 261.80 |
| NOESSEN | 119.30 |
| NORTEN | 190.00 |
| KUSSEL HLD | 443.00 |
| HALL SALZ | 134.00 |
| KARSTADT | 449.00 |
| KALFHOF | 390.00 |
| KLOECK N | 102.00 |
| LINDE | 605.00 |
| LUFTHANSA | 145.00 |
| MAN | 162.00 |
| MANHESMAN | 127.80 |
| MERCEDES | 525.00 |
| METALLGES | 260.00 |
| NIXDORF PF | 534.00 |
| NORSK | 53.50 |
| PHILIP KOM | 613.00 |
| POKSCHE | 528.00 |
| PREUSSAG | 152.00 |
| PHM | 202.00 |
| RHEIN | 208.00 |
| RHEINMETAL | 197.00 |
| SALAMANDER | 262.50 |
| SCHERING | 446.00 |
| SEL | 310.00 |
| SIEMENS | 362.00 |
| THYSEN | 131.00 |
| VARTA | 273.00 |
| VEBA | 256.80 |
| VEW | 168.00 |
| VOLKSWAGEN | 245.40 |

HONG KONG

| STOCK | LAST PR. CLSE |
|-------------|---------------|
| C H TUNNEL | 14.90 |
| CHEUNG K | 7.80 |
| CHINA GAS | 16.40 |
| CHINA L-P | 19.00 |
| CHINA MOTR | 18.80 |
| COSMO PROP | 3.15 |
| EVERGO INO | 34.35 |
| FAR EAST C | 74.74 |
| GEN ORIENT | 0.4400 |
| H C OVELEV | 9.20 |
| H S INDEX | 619.87 |
| HANG LUNG | 5.05 |
| HANG SENG | 34.00 |
| HAW PAR BR | 0.2100 |
| HK ELEC CO | 8.10 |
| HK KOWLOON | 7.15 |
| HK LAND CO | 8.15 |
| HK SHAN BK | 7.40 |
| HK SHAN HT | 3.97 |
| HK TELE CO | 7.25 |
| HUTCH WHAN | 8.70 |
| IND EO PAC | 10.30 |
| JARDINE H | 12.60 |
| KOOLONG H | 11.70 |
| NEW WORLD | 10.30 |
| PAUL Y COV | 1.69 |
| REALTY GEN | 5.65 |
| S N K CO | 1.84 |
| S H K PROP | 10.50 |
| SINE OABY | 1.53 |
| STELLUS MFG | 5.95 |
| SWIRE PAC | 17.70 |
| T V B CO | 14.70 |
| TAT CHEUNG | 3.67 |
| UNIT BANK | 1.56 |
| WOCK MARI | 0.7250 |
| WOCK MARI | 0.1150 |
| WORLD INTL | 3.35 |

AMMAN

| As of 6.4.88 | OPNG | CLSG |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| ALA-ADDIN COMPANY | 1.35 | 1.36 |
| ARAB ALUMINUM IND. | 1.77 | 1.76 |
| ARAB BANK | 114.00 | 114.00 |
| ARAB CHEMICAL DTER | 4.25 | 4.10 |
| ARAB FINANCE CORP. | 1.36 | 1.32 |
| ARAB INSURANCE | 0.92 | 0.90 |
| ARAB INT. INV. TRAD. | 0.98 | 0.98 |
| ARAB INT. UNION INS | 0.97 | 0.92 |
| ARAB INTER. HOTELS | 0.53 | 0.58 |
| ARAB JOR. INV. TRD | 2.10 | 2.10 |
| ARAB PAPER COM/TRD | 0.37 | 0.36 |
| ARAB PHARMA. HAF. | 1.91 | 1.88 |
| ARAB PHARMA. CHEN | 0.76 | 0.75 |
| ARAB POTASH CO. | --- | --- |
| ARABIAN SEAS INS. | 1.65 | 1.65 |
| BANK OF JORDAN | 15.05 | 15.00 |
| BELGIUM INSURANCE | 1.00 | 0.95 |
| CAIRO AMMAN BANK | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| DAR AL SHAAB PRESS | 0.38 | 0.38 |
| DAR ALDAMA DV/INV. | 1.45 | 1.45 |
| DARCO/INVEST/NOUS. | 0.43 | 0.43 |
| FINANCE/CREDIT/COR | 0.56 | 0.56 |
| GARAGE OWNERS OFF | 4.10 | 3.95 |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT | 2.39 | 2.63 |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT | 1.33 | 1.32 |
| GENERAL MINING | 1.40 | 1.35 |
| HIMEN MINERALS | 0.79 | 0.79 |
| HOLD LAND INS. | 1.20 | 1.32 |
| IND. MATCH JEMCO | 0.68 | 0.68 |
| INDSTR. OVEPLT BHK | 1.36 | 1.36 |
| INDSTR. COMM/AGR. | 1.31 | 1.32 |
| INDSTR. INVEST. | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| INTERN. COM/INV | 0.29 | 0.26 |
| IRBIO ELECTRICITY | 0.96 | 0.96 |
| ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE | 0.64 | 0.64 |
| INTERMED/PETRI/CH | 1.40 | 1.40 |
| J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| JERUSALEM INS. | 1.30 | 1.28 |
| JO TOBACCO/CIGARET | 13.60 | 13.60 |
| JOR CERAMIC FACT | 1.05 | 1.03 |
| JOR EAGLE INS. | 25.01 | 25.05 |
| JOR ELECTRIC POWER | 1.44 | 1.44 |
| JOR FINANCE HOUSE | 1.16 | 1.10 |
| JOR GLASS INDUSTRY | 0.99 | 0.99 |
| JOR HOTEL TOURISM | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| JOR INDUSTRY CHEM. | 1.65 | 1.63 |
| JOR INS AND FIN. | 1.20 | 1.20 |
| JOR LEASING CORP. | 0.80 | 0.80 |
| JOR LIM BRICK | 0.22 | 0.22 |
| JOR MANAG/CONSULT | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| JOR NATIONAL BANK | 2.46 | 2.46 |
| JOR PAPER CARDBRGG | 3.09 | 3.00 |
| JOR PHOSPHATE MINS | 2.20 | 2.20 |
| JOR PIPES MANUFACT | 1.15 | 1.16 |
| JOR PRESS/PUBLISH. | 2.00 | 2.05 |
| JOR PRINTING/PACK. | 3.96 | 4.00 |
| JOR ROCK WOOL IND. | 0.58 | 0.58 |
| JOR SECURIT. CORP | 0.88 | 0.87 |
| JOR SELPHO CHEM. | 2.68 | 2.67 |
| JOR WOOD INDUSTRY | 1.27 | 1.25 |
| JOR WORSTED MLL | 4.25 | 4.25 |
| JOR KUWAIT AGR | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| JOR PETROLEUM REF | 7.02 | 7.05 |
| JOR. FREMCH INS. | 5.20 | 5.30 |
| JOR INV. FIM. CORP | 1.90 | 1.88 |
| JORDANIAN GULF REAL | 0.32 | 0.32 |
| JORDAN DAIRY | 1.01 | 1.00 |
| JORDAN GULF BANK | 1.19 | 1.18 |
| JORDAN GULF INS. | 0.94 | 0.95 |
| JORDAN INSURANCE | 13.85 | 13.90 |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BHK | 1.67 | 1.65 |
| JORDAN KUWAIT BANK | 1.53 | 1.53 |
| JORDAN TANNING | 1.95 | 1.95 |
| LIVESTOCK/POULTRY | 0.76 | 0.76 |
| MACH/EOU/RENT/MAIN | 0.79 | 0.78 |
| MAS INDUSTRIES | 0.69 | 0.75 |
| MIDDLE EAST HOTEL | 0.60 | 0.60 |
| MIDDLE EAST INS. | 60.00 | 60.00 |
| MINERALS RESEARCH | 0.60 | 0.60 |
| NAT. CABEL/AIRE/MF | 0.99 | 1.00 |
| NATIONAL ALHIA INS | 1.27 | 1.28 |
| NATIONAL INDUSTRY | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| NATIONAL STEEL | 2.69 | 2.69 |
| ORIENT ORY BATTERY | 0.25 | 0.28 |
| PETRA BANK | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| PETRA JOR. INS. | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| PHILADELPHIA INS. | 0.86 | 0.84 |
| RAFIA INDUSTRIAL | 0.80 | 0.80 |
| REAL ESTATE INV. | 0.39 | 0.39 |
| SHIPPING LINES | 0.85 | 0.83 |
| SPINNING WEAVING | 0.89 | 0.89 |
| THE HOUSING BANK | 1.67 | 1.67 |
| UNITED INSURANCE | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| UNIVERSAL CHEN. IND | 1.66 | 1.66 |
| UNIVERSAL INS. | 1.19 | 1.23 |
| WOOLEN INDUSTRIES | 0.85 | 0.85 |
| YARMOUK INSURANCE | 1.09 | 1.08 |

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

| COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | BUY | SELL | OPEN | CLSE |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| STOCK | 71.00 | 74.00 | 72.00 | 72.00 |
| AC-A | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| ANS | 4.25 | 4.30 | 4.25 | 4.25 |
| FER-A | 2.32 | 2.32 | 2.32 | 2.32 |
| GLO | 33.00 | 33.50 | 33.00 | 33.00 |
| PLOT | 145.00 | 146.00 | 146.00 | 146.00 |
| KPSI-A | 1.60 | 1.64 | 1.60 | 1.60 |
| SNC-A | 133.00 | 134.00 | 133.00 | 133.00 |
| SNC-B | 153.00 | 155.00 | 153.00 | 153.00 |
| MINING SECTOR | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| APX-A | 0.029 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| APX-B | 0.029 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| AT-A | 21.50 | 21.75 | 21.50 | 21.50 |

Makati Stock Market Report

| OFFICIAL INFORMATION | SHARES | VALUE | AVERAGES | CHANGES |
|----------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| SECTOR | 272,910 | 7,345,010 | 770.61 | 1.29 UP |
| MINING | 20,064,450 | 8,428,725 | 4,982.96 | 65.83 UP |
| GLO | 17,750,000 | 485,150 | 5,522 | 0.085 DN |
| TOTAL | 38,087,360 | 14,258,885 | 760.84 | 1.08 DN |

PHILIPPINES MANILA

| COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | BUY | SELL | OPEN | CLSE |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| STOCK | 71.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| SNC-A | 133.00 | 134.00 | 133.00 | 133.00 |
| SNC-B | 152.00 | 153.00 | 152.00 | 152.00 |
| ST-TIRE | 29.00 | 29.50 | 28.50 | 28.50 |
| PLOT | 145.00 | 146.00 | 146.00 | 146.00 |
| ANSOR | 4.30 | 4.35 | 4.20 | 4.20 |
| AC-A | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| GLO | 33.00 | 33.50 | 33.00 | 33.00 |
| FER-A | 2.30 | 2.46 | 2.30 | 2.30 |
| FER-B | 2.30 | 2.40 | 2.30 | 2.30 |
| STOCK | 71.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| APX-A | 0.029 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| APX-B | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| AT-A | 21.50 | 21.75 | 21.50 | 21.50 |
| AT-B | 22.00 | 23.00 | 22.00 | 22.00 |

Manila Stock Market Report

| OFFICIAL INFORMATION | SHARES | VALUES | AVERAGES | CHANGES |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|----------|---------|
| SECTOR | 388,000 | 4,045,265 | 762.05 | ON 0.35 |
| C/I | 127,272,300 | 12,821,720 | 4,292.24 | DN 9.71 |
| MINING | 131,100,000 | 2,931,499 | 5,839 | UP 0.45 |
| TOTAL | 258,760,300 | 19,798,475 | 738.91 | UP 1.36 |

SINGAPORE

| NAME | LAST | PR | CL | GUINNESS GULA | 256 | 256 | LION CORP | 147 | 147 |
|--------------|------|------|-------------|------------------|------|------------|-----------------------------------|------|-----|
| | | | | ----- | | | U LTD MFG <td>60</td> <td>60</td> | 60 | 60 |
| AJINOMOTO | 285 | 285 | H L IND. | 118 | 116 | M'SHITA | 510 | 510 | |
| ALEXANDRA | 150 | 150 | H TAI PAN | 50 | 58 | N'WATA | 62 | 60 | |
| AMAL IND | 112 | 112 | HARIJAU | 95 | 95 | MAGNUM | 191 | 193 | |
| AMB LOGS | 180 | 180 | RAU PAR | 284 | 285 | MALEX | 380 | 380 | |
| ANCOL | 130 | 131 | HEXZA | 108 | 108 | MARCOPOLO | 82 | 82 | |
| BA TOB | 151 | 152 | HIMO HOTEL | 30 | 30 | NBC HLOGS | 71 | 71 | |
| C & C | 206 | 206 | HTL M' S'IA | 560 | 560 | MEANW | 47 | 47 | |
| CARLSBERG | 585 | 585 | HTL NEGAR | 269 | 350 | METAL BOX | 410 | 410 | |
| COLO STOR | 388 | 386 | HTL PROPS | 88 | 89.5 | METRO | 590 | 595 | |
| OYAPPI | 87 | 87 | HTL ROYAL | 107 | 109 | MULPHALIND | 22 | 22 | |
| DKH | 490 | 490 | HUME IND | 165 | 165 | MULPHALTO | 42 | 43 | |
| OUNLOPIND | 81 | 82 | MMA HONG | 87 | 87 | MURATATOO | | | |
| OUTCHABAY | 450 | 450 | IMATEX | 22.5 | 23.5 | H ST TIME | 314 | 320 | |
| ESSO ORO | 376 | 374 | INTRACO | 206 | 208 | NATL IRON | 695 | 710 | |
| EU YAN S. | 193 | 195 | ISETAN | 458 | 464 | NOL LTO | 133 | 135 | |
| EVERPEACE | | | J CEMENT | 56 | 56 | QUE | 378 | 388 | |
| A C B | 60 | 60 | J EMERG | 208 | 213 | PALMCO | 49 | 49.5 | |
| F F ASSET | 47 | 47 | JC ENT | 97 | 97 | ROBINSON | 210 | 212 | |
| E F SHIP | 195 | 199 | K G HLOGS | 118 | | S PRESS | 765 | 755 | |
| M&M ORD | 825 | 835 | K KELLAS | 283 | | S SHIP | 230 | 230 | |
| FEB CABLE | | | K L IND | 31.5 | | SATERAS | 48 | 49.5 | |
| F F F | 560 | 560 | KAMUNTING | 100 | | SEAL INC | 89 | 89 | |
| G KENT | 72 | 72 | K S KANG | 120 | | SEAVIEW | 168 | 168 | |
| G TOWN | 250 | 250 | KENTUCKY | 212 | 213 | SHELL ORO | 500 | 494 | |
| GENSING CORP | 66 | 67 | KEPPEL | 201 | 204 | SIN HENG | 270 | 270 | |
| GENSINGENT | 408 | 406 | KG FLOUR | 225 | 225 | SIA | 1140 | 1140 | |
| GOOD COIN | 189 | 184 | KIAN JONG | 238 | 238 | SIN HENG | 270 | 270 | |
| GOODWOOD | 1050 | 1050 | KINGS HTL | 137 | 137 | SOUTH (M) | 84 | 84 | |
| GOODWOOD CEN | 98 | 98 | KUMP EMAS | 85 | 84.5 | SSANGYONG | 89 | 89 | |
| GRASSI | 120 | 120 | L & N GRP | 81.5 | 81 | TRANSMARC | 354 | 364 | |

Stock market advance is checked

Dollar sinks and gold strengthens

LONDON, April 8, (Agencies): The US dollar, after three days of steady gains, fell on the major European money markets today. Gold strengthened.

The American currency closed the day in Frankfurt at 1.6741 Deutschmarks, down from yesterday's closing 1.6793, in Zurich at 1.3855 Swiss francs against 1.3880 and in Paris at 5.6830 francs against 5.7020.

The dollar lost ground in Brussels, where it closed at 35.26 Belgian francs against yesterday's final 35.35, in Amsterdam at 1.8800 Dutch guilders against 1.8845 and in Milan at 1,243 lire against 1,246.80.

Higher

In London, the pound sterling closed higher against the dollar at \$1.8765 against yesterday's closing \$1.8665.

Earlier, the dollar closed the week with a drop to 125.18 yen against yesterday's finishing 125.70.

Dealers in Tokyo said market players refrained from taking large positions in advance of a

meeting of the Group of 7 Western advanced nations in Washington next week.

Major industrial nations, pleased with the relative calm of financial markets recently, are likely to reaffirm next week the pledge they made in December to keep the dollar steady, US officials say.

Imbalances in world trade are gradually being ironed out. Stock markets have recovered from October's crash. The global economy is still growing. The dollar, propped up by central bank intervention, has traded in fairly narrow ranges this year.

Trends

"The underlying trends are still generally positive," one senior US official said.

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven, the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — are due to hold discussions at the US Treasury next Wednesday during the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund

and World Bank.

The Group of Seven will review trends in the financial markets since their last policy statement on December 22 and, according to several US officials who declined to be identified, are likely to be quite satisfied with themselves.

Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told a press conference in Tokyo this week that the ministers were likely to be highly pleased and would endorse their efforts to date.

Needed

All the official comments indicate the ministers see no need, for now at least, to set new target ranges for the dollar, which foreign exchange economists assume to be 120 to 130 Japanese yen and 1.60 to 1.70 West German marks.

The dollar was trading around 126 yen and 1.62 marks at the time of the December commu-

A speculative attack at the start of the year pushed it as low as 120 yen and 1.56 marks, but it

soon recovered with the help of massive dollar purchases by central banks and has since traded comfortably near or above the December 22 rates.

The dollar was worth 125.75 yen and 1.6750 marks in New York today.

In the past, ministers have been guilty of a false sense of security, assuming that the policies they were following were adequate to correct the US huge trade deficit, prevent further pressure on the dollar and calm financial markets.

Rates

Last September, for instance, the Group of Seven met and decided they needed to do nothing. Within three weeks, a bitter row about interest rates had broken out between Washington and Bonn that many analysts believe contributed to the October 19 crash on Wall Street.

Now, though, economists and officials believe they have grounds for optimism.

For a start, the intractable US trade deficit is finally narrowing.

It dropped from a record of \$17.63 billion in October to less than 12.5 billion in December and January.

Also, budget and interest-rate policies among the major nations are better aligned.

Deficit

The United States, after a summit between administration and congressional leaders, agreed to slash its budget deficit by \$76 billion over two years.

The gap between government revenues and spending is seen by many experts as one of the main causes of global trade imbalances because it enables America to spend more than it produces, particularly on goods from abroad.

Interest rates have been adjusted to make the dollar more attractive to foreign investors relative to other currencies. While short-term rates in West Germany and Japan are at low record lows, the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, has recently begun nudging US interest rates higher.

Time for China to enter information age

BEIJING, April 8, (AP): Businessmen in China are still heavily hounded by tradition and regulation, and the time has come for China to enter the "information age" if it wants to compete in international markets, a group of entrepreneurs said on Thursday.

In a nationally televised news conference, six businessmen and women, all members of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body of intellectuals and non-Communists, said great strides have been made to give businessmen more control over their own affairs.

But they said there was still a lot of interference from the government.

"I still have lots of mothers-in-law and do not have much autonomy," said Wang Peizhou, deputy commander and executive vice president of Bao-shan, the country's largest steel works.

Bao-shan has received funds from the Japanese government to design the steel works and its equipment is mostly from Japan and West Germany. But the company is still plagued with problems of inefficiency.

Li Guilian, director of a garment factory in Xinjin county, said she often has trouble even making a phone call using the country's antiquated phone system.

"I use an old type phone and can't hear clearly even when calling inside the country," she said. That makes her export business extremely difficult, she said.

Liu Yiping, deputy general manager of Amoi Overseas Chinese Electronics Co., said China will have to enter the "information age" if it wants to deal in exports.

"Communications are like the eyes of a person or the nervous system. Without good information, we are like the blind. We have no information from abroad," he said.

Yang Mianxian, vice director and general engineer of the Qing Dao Refrigerator Factory, said other factors are hindering the country's efforts to build up its export market.

He said Chinese parts often are not up to international standards, and his company will continue to use foreign parts until Chinese quality improves.

Spain signs gas deal

MADRID, April 8, (Reuters): The state-owned Spanish gas firm Empresa Nacional de Gas SA (Enagas) signed a \$4 billion 30-year agreement in Madrid today for supply of natural gas from Norway's Troll field.

It said the deal with the consortium exploiting the field was valued at current prices, adding that the sum involved could be much bigger if, as expected, gas prices rise in the future.

Enagas said quantities of gas supplied would vary between one billion and 1.4 billion cubic metres a year, with an option to increase this in the long term.

The contract with the consortium of firms exploiting the Troll field — Statoil, Shell, Norsk-Hydro, Saga, Conoco and Mobil — was a product of Spain's need to meet expected rising demand and declining domestic supplies, Enagas said.

The deal is subject to ratification by the Spanish and Norwegian governments.

The Troll field, which is expected to come on stream from 1996, is one of the world's largest, with reserves of about 1,200 billion cubic metres.

Pound recovers

Lebanon economic crisis deepens

BEIRUT, April 8, (Reuters): The battered Lebanese pound has strengthened rapidly over the past few months despite a worsening economic crisis and persistent labour unrest.

Strikers paralysed Lebanon earlier this week, responding to a call from the General Labour Federation to protest over price rises.

The federation says inflation hit 310 per cent in the six months to the end of March and is demanding a pay hike for the same amount backdated to January.

The pound closed on March 31, the last trading day before Easter, at 363.00/364.00 to the dollar.

That was little changed during March but an appreciation of 65 per cent from an all-time low of \$80/620 last October 28. And when trading resumed this week, the pound held its gain.

Confidence

Although it is still far from its level of 79 to the dollar at the start of 1987, the reasons for this confidence in an economy battered by 13 years of civil war are hard to see.

Unemployment is estimated around 35 per cent and infrastructure is in rapid decline, with

roads and the telephone system in a poor state of repair and power cuts frequent.

Economists say production is well below pre-war levels because of constant interruption to work, disruption of transport and damage to facilities.

Government revenues now come only from customs duty imposed on vehicle imports and certain land taxes.

Business

"Lebanon's economy was never developed on a proper basis and what is left of it is now disintegrating under the effect of the war," said economist Riad Khoury, who runs his own import-export business. "It is not a real economy."

Another economist said: "The basic underlying economic factors, whether on the economic level or the infrastructure of the country, have not changed. The situation is worse now than it was last year or five months ago."

But he said two psychological trends had emerged among the Lebanese people — a confidence in the pound at its current exchange rate and a willingness to hold on to it.

The key factor supporting the currency appears to be an expectation that the presidential elec-

tion in August will end the war, improve Lebanon's political system and stabilise the economic status quo, one banker said.

Although no clear successor to President Amin Gemayel has emerged, bankers say the weary Lebanese hope the poll will end the political stalemate which has left the country without a working government for two years.

In the meantime, Lebanon is virtually partitioned into sectarian-based fiefdoms, ruled by militias that collect taxes and run their own ports to meet their expenses.

Muslim and Palestinian commando use the south for attacks on Israel, which strikes back into Lebanon.

Renewed confidence in the Lebanese currency contrasts vividly with the picture for most of 1987 when people would rush to convert to dollars every pound not immediately needed.

Depreciation

Lebanon, which imports most basic necessities, was caught in a vicious circle of currency depreciation fuelling rampant price inflation, damaging confidence in the pound.

Declining confidence led the private sector to shift its cash into

foreign exchange. In 1987 the proportion of bank accounts in foreign currencies rose to 85 per cent from 68 per cent in 1986 and 37 per cent in 1981.

Foreign currency reserves declined to \$334 million in 1987 from \$461 million in 1986.

But they have since climbed to around \$700 million and bankers say the Central Bank has taken advantage of the inflow of private funds to boost its reserves.

The Central Bank has also squeezed the margin between the buying and selling rates, pushing small dealers and speculators out of the market in a further step towards stability.

Other factors which bankers say have had a marginal role in boosting the pound include foreign aid in recent months from Europe, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq and income from Lebanese working abroad.

The Labour Federation says inflation last year was 731 per cent, up from 95 per cent in 1986. It won a promise of action to stabilise the currency with a five-day strike last November but says prices have only slipped back marginally and wages are lagging behind.

Rising Canadian dollar a mixed blessing

TORONTO, April 8, (UPI): The Canadian dollar's gain over two years has boosted the spending power of Canadian tourists in the United States by about 15.5 per cent but has sent exporters scurrying to count their pennies.

Exporters are concerned about the surge in the currency, which rocketed through the 80-cent (US) mark March 17 to hit a four-year high and shows no signs of sliding. But Canadian tourists and consumers are getting more for their money.

"When we go to grocery stores and buy winter vegetables and fruit, they should be a little less expensive," said senior economist Paul Kovacs of Burns Fry Ltd. "When we travel south, we'll have a little more spending money."

Surge

The currency's surge through the 80-cent level for the first time since Feb 24, 1984 represented a gain of more than 10 cents from a record low of about 69.25 cents in February 1986.

The currency, last at par with the US dollar on Jan 28, 1976, hovered at about 72 cents through most of 1986 and gained steadily since then.

The cumulative gain put more US money in the pockets of Can-

adian tourists who pack American vacation spots.

For example, a family able to spend \$1,000 in Canadian currency on a trip to Disneyworld in early 1986 was left with about \$690 US currency. Today, from the same Canadian amount, the family would have about \$800.

US tourists still would find bargains in Canada but they would not be as great as the bargains of two years ago.

"A lot of people in the United States are not even aware there is a significant difference between the currencies until they come here," said John Lawson of Tourism Industry Association of Canada.

Analysts attributed the dollar's rise to a lower inflation rate than in the United States and a faster-growing economy than in other major industrialised nations.

"The (Canadian) dollar is up mainly for good, sound economic reasons," said Kovacs. Among other factors he cited a series of government policy moves and efforts to reduce the deficit and reform the tax system.

Consumers also gain because some 80 per cent of imports are denominated in US dollars.

But not everyone sees the gain as a sign of economic strength or prestige.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, citing possible damage to the pulp and paper industry, wants the dollar at less than 79 cents. Ontario Premier David Peterson, whose province is Canada's most populous, said the surging dollar threatened jobs. He called on the federal government to intervene.

The Canadian Export Association also is concerned because some 80 per cent of Canadian exports are sold in the United States and most headed for offshore markets are denominated in US dollars.

Contracts

"An increase in the cost of your product of 8 or 9 per cent is not insignificant, and we have to be quite concerned," said spokesman Jim Moore. "It's not a panic situation but there is mounting concern."

He said long-term contracts in US currency hurt coal and iron ore industries. Adam Zimmerman, chief executive officer of Noranda Inc., said one cent means about \$5.2 million in revenues and the US dollar should be worth about 76 Canadian cents.

Expat Sudanese form investment firms

PROMINENT Sudanese working in the Gulf have formed two investment companies to channel the savings of fellow expatriates into projects in Sudan, a director of the firms said yesterday.

Kamal Al Aalem, a member of the joint board of the Khartoum-based Sudanese Investment Group Ltd and an overseas affiliate based in the British Virgin Islands, said they hoped to raise authorised capital of at least \$25 million.

Opportunities

"We hope the companies will provide better investment opportunities for the savings of Sudanese working abroad and at the same time help the Sudanese economy," he told Reuters.

The Sudan-based company will identify potential ventures, carry out feasibility studies and launch them through subsidiaries. The overseas firm will provide the necessary foreign currency.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese work in the Gulf states and their remittances are an important source of hard currency to the beleaguered Sudanese economy.

10% of the value of the complete works.

16. Minimum third party insurance shall be KD 250,000/-.

17. The tenderer shall, at his request, receive an additional copy of the drawings, if available for KD 150/-.

18. Acceptance and rejection of any offer shall be at the discretion of the tenders committee at the NHA without any responsibility on NHA side and liability to pay any remunerations or expenses for rejected offers. This bidding is open to the following companies:

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5. Al Badah & Al Maseri Trdg. & Contg. Co.
6. Abdul Aziz & Abdulla & Sons Co.
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8. Moh'd Yusuf Al Saqer Gen Trdg. & Contg. Est.

(To be continued)

Provided by M.A. Mursi Umm Al Maradin International Est. P.O. Box 3654, Salat, Tel. 5337547/5337610.



Floor dealers at the Tokyo Stock Exchange swarm to a trading counter as Tokyo stock prices reached a record high of 26,789.22 in often frenzied trading spurred by a strong Wall Street rally overnight. The previous record of 26,646.43 was set on Oct 14, 1987. (Reuters wirephoto)

US, EEC clash over strategy at world food conference

BRUSSELS, April 8, (Reuters): The United States and the European Economic Community (EEC) disagreed sharply yesterday over the best strategy for global agricultural reform at the world food conference in Brussels.

The United States wants abolition of all agricultural subsidies by the year 2000, and says the EEC's new package of measures to curb output and spending is timid.

But Frans Andriessen, EEC farm commissioner, argued that for most countries, completely dismantling all support for agriculture was neither possible nor desirable, even in the long term.

Solutions

The conference at the European parliament has been organised to seek solutions to the global imbalance between huge food surpluses in major industrial countries and chronic shortages in the Third World.

Both the United States and the 12-nation European Economic Community subsidise their farmers heavily, and some experts say both must stop spending so much money on wasted food production.

Richard Lyng, US Agriculture

Secretary, told around 250 conference delegates from over 60 countries that only a system devoid of subsidies and protectionism could help less developed countries and end trade friction.

"We must open markets, not restrict them. We must reject proposals that lock in markets and price stabilisation schemes," he said.

Farmers

The United States would continue aggressively supporting its farmers if it didn't get the results it wanted in multilateral negotiations, he warned.

Referring to the US aim of abolishing subsidies, Andriessen said, "It does not make sense to establish long-term goals while not being able to do anything in intermediate steps."

If doing away with all subsidies was unrealistic, he told delegates, major industrial countries could still go a long way "towards reducing and rebalancing agricultural support, and making it more selective."

The package of price-cuts and other measures negotiated recently to curb EEC agricultural production was a pragmatic, immediate step in the right direction, Andriessen added.

He also pointed out that abolishing subsidies would not magically help Third World countries, since they would have to pay more for imports as well as earning more for their exports.

Opening the two-day meeting, President Kenneth Kamda of Zambia said major industrial nations had to take the initiative to help feed the world.

Lead

"The time has come for Europe and the rest of the developed world to take a lead in structural adjustment efforts," he told the conference. "We have not begun to think together as internationalists."

What less developed countries need is aid for the kind of technology and training that can bring about self-sufficiency, he said.

The answer does not lie in dumping surplus stocks on us through food aid, no matter how legitimate your intentions are."

Lord Plumb, president of the European Parliament and chairman of the conference, said he realised the gathering would have no quick solutions for the world's hungry.

"But we are pushing hard," he added. "You never know, with political pressure, it may even be our own push, however small, that at last opens the way to finding the solution."

Pressure

A Chinese official said ministers were under pressure to get funds for projects of their departments or in particular areas and could over-ride the bank's call for curbs.

The Beijing Financial Times last week published a proposal by 42 delegates to the National People's Congress, China's parliament, calling for the bank to have sole control over credit and currency and warning of rising inflation if it did not.

The Chinese official said Li's post was regarded as a hot potato within the Chinese bureaucracy, because it carried such heavy responsibility but limited power.

"The bank chief carries the can when credit and money supply go wrong but does not in fact have the ability to control them," he said.

Engineer to be named new China central bank chief

BEIJING, April 8, (Reuters): A Soviet-trained engineer with no financial experience is to be the new head of China's central bank which has a crucial role to play in the success or failure of the country's economic reforms.

Informed Chinese sources said Li Guixian, Communist Party leader of Anhui province, would succeed Cheng Muhua, who has headed the People's bank of China (PBOC) since March, 1985.

"This is a very important job, especially because of the bank's role in the next stage of economic reform," one US banker said. "What Li does will affect the man in the street as well as government policy."

Function

Li will also be named a member of the state council, or cabinet, before China ends its annual session of parliament, the National People's Congress, on April 13.

The bank was reconstituted as a Western-style central bank in 1984, shedding its function as a commercial bank and taking on a supervisory role over China's booming financial sector.

However, the system has not functioned very well. Money supply grew an average 21 per cent from 1984-87, much faster than the increase in industrial production. This surplus cash helped caused the most serious bout of inflation since 1949.

An Asian diplomat said Chen, 67 this year, was stepping down because of her age, not because she had failed to curb this excess issue of money or misuse of credit.

Credit

"PBOC is not independent. Money and credit supply are decided by the state council. She leaves the banking system much stronger than she found it, with flourishing inter-bank markets and a fledgling foreign exchange trading system," he said.

Other diplomats believe she has lost her political power base. Li is mystery to foreign bankers in Beijing.

Born in 1938, he studied in China and at a chemical technology institute in Moscow from 1960-65. He later worked as an engineer in his native Liaoning, in the northeast, where he became party secretary in 1985.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, April 8, (Reuters): The national market closed higher as scattered local institutional buying continued across the boards. The All Ordinaries index was up 12.5 to 1,425.1.

TOKYO: Prices closed easier in robust trade due to a slightly weaker dollar and a lack of fresh buying incentives. The Nikkei index fell 20.33 points to close at 26,748.89.

HONG KONG: Prices closed a shade lower on moderate profit-taking following sharp gains on

Thursday. The Hang Seng index fell 3.21 to 2,619.87.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed marginally lower after three days of gains, on lack of follow-through buying support and bouts of profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.79 to 943.01.

BOMBAY: Share prices closed subdued in poor trading for the new account as institutional investors, chief buyers in the market, kept away.

FRANKFURT: Prices closed a quiet bourse easier as pre-week-

end caution and the lack of any significant new factors left investors sidelined. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, fell 3.8 to 1,396.2.

ZURICH: Swiss share prices closed mixed but blue chips were mostly lower in moderate pre-weekend trading. The all-share Swiss index fell five to 822.7.

LONDON: Prices stayed firmer and stood around the day's highs after the market was buoyed by a surprise cut in UK base rates. At 4455 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 19.3 at 1,780.3.

NEW YORK: The market moved moderately higher in thin morning trading. The Dow 30 was up six at 2,069.

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the Arab Times

Selection gives a distorted picture

Cream of Indian cinema: not sweet enough

THE famous annual package, 21 of the choicest Indian films, selected by four committees has turned out to be a big let-down this time. Not only has the number been reduced to 18 but the quality has also gone down steeply. As a matter of fact, reports say that even 18 films were difficult to find.

The primary selection of these films in different languages is made at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, after which a central committee at Delhi makes the final pick from the regional recommendations. Pressures and pulls are always at work to get certain films or language interests included, since this packet is considered prestigious and gives VIP (very important pictures) treatment.

Entries for all foreign film festivals during the year are made from this lot alone. The director and one or two artists from each film are sent abroad as delegates. These films also figure prominently in the National Awards. Moreover, they often get additional benefits like exemption from entertainment tax and other levies, and they are paid much higher fees when shown on T.V.

That's why there is a scramble to get into the Indian Panorama. A drawback is that those films are certified only till the August of the previous year. It often happens that some excellent films are made in the last four months, but have to wait till the next year, at least for India's own international festival.

This year's Panorama, selected from the films of 1986-87 hardly lived up to its proud title as the cream of Indian Cinema. If it was the cream, then it was not delicious or sweet enough. There were five Hindi films and few from other languages. The maximum number were in Malayalam, perhaps because the world festival was being held in Trivandrum this year. But serious cinema buffs of Kerala have themselves admitted that the films were not of a high standard, except one or two. A couple of Bengali and Assamese films also made the mark and Phera was entered at



Bombay's Sujata Mehta (right) stars in *Purushartham*, one of the more interesting films in the Indian Panorama.

the Berlin festival. Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi films were completely left out.

From the Hindi lot, veteran Tapan Sinha's *Aaj Ka Robin Hood* is a good follow-up to the sadly neglected class of children's films. The problem it tackles is adult, namely the exploitation of unlettered villagers by the moneylenders using false documents. A poor village boy who works in the school is very braiyo. When a teacher tells him legendary stories like that of Robin Hood, he dreams of becoming such a character in real life. And when he gets the opportunity, he boldly outwits the evil fellows and frees the villagers, becoming a dream symbol of a bright future.

A new director Kishan Karthi presented his first Hindi film *Anushka*, meaning the better half. It was made completely in Kerala with new artists like

Seema Biswas and Marcus Barter Jr. The director wants to assert that life is a struggle for freedom, but the freedom turns out to be only a step heweeo one bondage and another. All this is told through a slim and grimy story, set in a tea plantation during India's freedom struggle. First, the husband remains loyal to the British and keeps away from any political agitation. His wife finds that life is suffocating. Then the man kills the Englishman in a fit of freedom anger. Yet for the wife, it begins another phase of despair.

Such half-baked ideas cannot easily develop into interesting powerful cinema. So the film itself is doomed to remain bonded in the cans. It is surprising how Gulzar's long-delayed

Ijazat made it to the Panorama. We have already discussed in these columns how it is just a triangular love tale between Naseeruddin, Rekha and Anuradha. All that Gulzar can say of his film is that it is visually richer and he has used silence effectively. Yet another commercial director Tanvir Ahmed's film *Su-Raj* (The good rule) was selected in the package.

Though Tanvir is now busy making *Aakarshan* with Akhtar Khan, Sonu Walia etc. after giving up a film with Parveen Babi, it's fortunate that he found the time and moony to make a small off-beat film with artists like Hangal, Rakesh Pande and Kiran Jooja.

This is also set to the post-independence period and

revolves around a veteran freedom fighter and Gandhian, called Kaka. He has sacrificed everything for the freedom, but is now aware that the ideals of Nehru and Gandhi are not being realised. The British masters have simply been replaced by Indian counterparts.

So the old man starts his own fight against corruption and injustice. But it is counter-productive, like his son being falsely charged by a corrupt police officer. The film ends with Kaka writing to the prime minister and waiting for justice. The film also tends to become slow as well as dry, since the narrative lacks substance.

The fifth Hindi entry *Swamy* is actually not a film but a stringing together of episodes from the South-made TV serial based on R.K. Narayan's stories. Directed by Shankar Nag mostly with child artists, it is all about a young boy's mal-adjustment with schools, teachers and his own parents. There is the problem of dividing his time adequately between studies and playing cricket. This film has also failed to make an impact despite the international reputation of R.K. Narayan and his village Malgudi.

Of the remaining regional films, Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Anantaram* has been acclaimed for its complex depiction of a young man's turmoil in keeping humao relationships.

A another Malayalam film *Purushartham* was interesting. Directed by K.R. Mohanan, with Bombay's Sujata Mehta, it tells of a rich widow with a son, trying to piece together the riddles of her past life. Lenin Rajendran's *Swathi Thirumala* is the artist-king of Travancore, under the East India Company during British rule, and how he lived a short but glorious life.

The Kannada films *Tabarash* and *Avasthe*, the Bengali *Phera* and *Ekti Jeeban*, and a couple of others in Assamese and Oriya stood out with off-beat qualities. But the entire group cannot be entirely representative of the finest recent products. Either the selections were wrong and manipulated. Or there were not enough good films. (Gautam Ghosh's remarkable *Mahayatra* was completed late last year). Most of the Panorama films were needlessly obsessed with dull themes, village backgrounds, slow tempo, rigid use of camera and editing, too much of flash-back and forward photographic emphasis on darkness rather than light and obscuring it.

The makers obviously thought these to be the qualifications for getting into the Panorama. The selectors also preferred this. But it gives a distorted picture of the Indian film industry and puts off even those who want to patronise it.

There are rumours that Shashi Kapoor's Indo-Soviet *Ajoba* has run into a strange problem. The Russian side does not exactly favour Amitabh as the hero for the Soviet version called "The Black Prince". Taking another Indian actor would be a big blow to Amit's ego. So they may settle for a Russian artist to play the role. Shashi has to settle this before starting the shooting in the U.S.S.R.

Amitabh needs both luck and courage, since Shahbushah has no repeat value and is surely not proving the mega-hit it was supposed to be. In his young days, his famed poet-father Harivanshrai Bachchao had written a poem *Agnipath* to boost his spirits when he had a bad period. Now, producer Yash Johar has used *Agnipath* as the title of his new film with Amit. But some say that it is because Yash could not get the title *Messiah*, registered by Sunil Dutt for many years.

Neither is Sunil making the film nor allowing anyone to use the name.

Sunil's brother Som Dutt has plunged into the production of *Kam Rokega Mujhe* only on the strength of his friendship with Vinod Khosla. Years back, Sunil had made *Man Ka Hero* (with Leena Chaudhary as heroine) and Vinod as the villain. Som was a flop and went into oblivion. Recently when Vinod attended the birthday party of Som's son, he prodded him to produce a new film. So Som jumped into it. He did not even bother to sign Sunil or his son Sunjay Dutt. But looking at the heap of films Vinod has, and the way he staggers from one shooting to another, poor Som has a tough

Peshawar's native son returns home in triumph



Dilip Kumar 'Pride of Frontier Province' and his wife Saira Bano in Pakistan where the couple received a hysterical welcome.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: It wasn't a scripted sequence from the tinsel world but a spontaneous emotional situation in real life in which Dilip Kumar was cast to return to his home town after a lapse of about 45 years.

Accompanied by wife Saira Bano, Peshawar-born Dilip Kumar whose real name is Yusuf Khan, was clearly overwhelmed by the people's affection for the native son returning home after a lifetime spent in Bombay's show biz glitter.

Welcoming hooors and specially erected ceremonial gates greeted Dilip Kumar, the living legend of India's silver screen for more than four decades, as his motorcade slowly waded its way through the crowded Qissa Khawani Bazar and other areas of the city.

Profusely garlanded on arrival at the Peshawar Airport, flower petals were constantly showered at him and wife Saira Bano. People tried to touch him and kiss his hands as he stood in the open Pajero, warmly responding with unmistakable joy.

Brother Ahsan Khan, who is accompanying Yusuf Khan on the two-week homcoming repeatedly said "It was wonderful, wonderful."

Also on the flight were Dilip Kumar's cousin Dr Jan, and his wife and Mr Nazim Jiva of Fatimid Foundation and Mrs Jiva.

Dilip Kumar to his impressions after the brief tour of the city said it was a memorable

day for him since he got the opportunity to see his birth place.

"To see again cooking of kababs and selling of 'gaaderis' in Qisakhani Bazar is like a dream come true."

When asked how he waited for such long time to see his birthplace while he had been extended invitations to the past, Dilip said, it has happened too late but it was due to Almighty Allah's permission (Allah ko manzoor tha tou aza gaa). He told a questioner that it looked he had never gone from here.

Meanwhile, Governor Fida Mohammad Khan disclosed to onlookers that Dilip Kumar was only three years younger than him when he had left Peshawar but smilingly said, "He looks too young while I am quite an old man."

When asked if the government would like to set up a memorial of Dilip Kumar in Peshawar, the governor said the entire city was his memorial.

The couple went to the economy class to meet the passengers, most of whom felt it a privilege travelling with him was a matter of good fortune.

There was a rush for their autographs. Among others on the flight was Hakeem Saeed of the Hamdard Foundation with whom Dilip Kumar chatted for a few minutes.

At the airport, bands played popular tunes as relatives, friends of his family and local artists awaited his arrival and gave him a sentimental recep-

tion as he came out of the plane and met them. Elaborate security arrangements simply broke down as he was ushered in to a Pajero.

Some of the hanoers at various points in the city hailed him as "Pride of Frontier Province" and inscriptions on some others hailed him as a son of the soil.

To show their joy over 'the return of the native', crowds had lined up most of the route of his motorcade and many people, including women, watched the procession from rooftops and windows.

Dilip Kumar, remained unruffled for most of the time but on occasions he was overcome with emotion. As the aircraft started descend he left other passengers and joined Saira Bano, whom he addressed as Saira Begum and peeped through the window, said "Let me show you the mountains, the grandeur and the greenery of my home."

The captain of the flight, who had earlier specially greeted him and the couple's presence on board, invited them to the cockpit which must have given them a vintage view of Peshawar resplendent in early April's clear and bright sunshine.

Asked as to what she thought of the excitement their presence had generated on board Saira Bano smiled, saying "it is very good." Dilip Kumar did not make any comment but his pleasure over the love and affection showered on him was unmistakable. Courtesy: Dawn

Behind the Screen

Neither is Sunil making the film nor allowing anyone to use the name.

Sunil's brother Som Dutt has plunged into the production of *Kam Rokega Mujhe* only on the strength of his friendship with Vinod Khosla. Years back, Sunil had made *Man Ka Hero* (with Leena Chaudhary as heroine) and Vinod as the villain. Som was a flop and went into oblivion. Recently when Vinod attended the birthday party of Som's son, he prodded him to produce a new film. So Som jumped into it. He did not even bother to sign Sunil or his son Sunjay Dutt. But looking at the heap of films Vinod has, and the way he staggers from one shooting to another, poor Som has a tough

time ahead, where he can't even say "Kam Rokega Mujhe."

Govinda's anger about Mithun getting more importance than him in *Jeete Hain Saan* has been taken lightly by Mithun himself. When some scribes discussed this with him, Mithun said light-heartedly: "Govinda is a nice boy but rather young and immature. He is carried away by what his cronies tell him. And he is too filled with self-importance. He must take things lightly till he becomes a solo hero. For 'Jeete Hain', I have myself told the director to have more scenes of Govinda, since I am very busy and I don't want the film to suffer." We think we know what Mithun is busy with.

K.K. Shukla is one film

writer who somehow wants to get his name included in the film's story. So he names some character as K.K. Shukla, or refers to it in the dialogue, or gets some institution named after it, like the college in *Insaf*. But when K.K. tried to foist his name on the hero's character in a coming film, the hero objected strongly. The writer also remained obstinate. The upshot was that the film could not get off the ground.

Two documentary films have been made on the "great showman" Raj Kapoor. One is by Simi Garewal called *The Living Legend*, which was accepted and shown by the B.B.C. The other is by Siddhartha Kak who made it for the Films Division at the cost of eight lakhs rupees. It is being neither shown in the theatres nor on TV. But because of Kak's contacts with the Films Division, poor Simi's film is being kept out by the Division as well as Doordarshan.



Hangal plays an old freedom fighter in *Su-Raj*.



Tapan Sinha's *Aaj Ka Robin Hood* is supposedly a children's film with an adult theme.



Madhuri Mukerji in the Bengali film *Ekti Jeeban*.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

CIRRHOSIS CAUSES SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE LIVER

QUESTION: What is cirrhosis? Does it always come from drinking? How can you tell you have it?

ANSWER: Cirrhosis is actually a group of diseases that cause serious damage to the body's largest organ — the liver.

As cirrhosis progresses, normal liver cells are replaced by scar tissue. Because the liver provides the body with very important functions, the disease is often fatal. The liver is involved in producing blood clotting factors, blood proteins, bile and more than a thousand different enzymes, as well as performing many other crucial functions.

Alcohol abuse is by far the leading cause of this disease. There are, however, several other conditions that lead to cirrhosis. A small percentage of people who suffer from chronic hepatitis develop cirrhosis. Diseases such as haemochromatosis — when the body does not handle iron properly, and Wilson's Disease — when the body handles copper abnormally, can cause cirrhosis. Congenital and inherited conditions also cause this liver disease. Conditions in which the body is not able to utilise sugar properly

or deficiencies of specific enzymes in the liver can lead to cirrhosis. In rare cases, a severe reaction to drugs, environmental toxins, some forms of heart disease, parasitic conditions or obstruction of the bile ducts can cause scar tissue to form on the liver.

When cirrhosis of the liver begins, it is often silent, showing no signs or symptoms. But eventually, a sufferer may experience a loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, weight loss, itching, an enlarged liver, increased sensitivity to drugs, vomiting of blood, abdominal swelling and jaundice. Many patients never develop any symptoms, but lab tests may discover the disease when they are performed for other ailments.

Further deterioration of the liver often can be stopped once cirrhosis is diagnosed.

In the large majority of cases of cirrhosis due to alcoholism, the easiest way to stop the disease is total abstinence from drinking and a wholesome diet, complete with needed nutrients and vitamins.

QUESTION: Is home blood pressure monitoring really of any use?

ANSWER: Indeed it is. It's hard to know

accurate blood pressures on a patient who is only tested in the physician's office. The best way to know what's happening with a patient's blood pressure is to get several readings a day, at home and at work. This gives us insight into what the patient's blood pressure is really doing every day, instead of for just the five minutes it is tested in our office.

Many physicians ask patients to monitor their own blood pressures at home, using a blood pressure cuff with a dial and using a stethoscope. If hearing problems interfere with use of a blood pressure cuff and stethoscope, a digital machine may be the next best option, though these machines tend to be more costly and less accurate.

If you monitor your blood pressure at home, keep a log of time, date and how you were feeling when you tested yourself. Take this log to your doctor's office, along with your blood pressure equipment, so that he or she can evaluate the pattern of your blood pressure, as well as the accuracy of your machine and your technique using it.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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PSV hold tired Real to draw in Cup

MADRID, April 8, (Reuters): Fatigue finally caught up with Real Madrid on Wednesday night when they were outwitted with surprising ease by PSV Eindhoven who held them to a 1-1 draw in their European Cup semifinal first leg match.

After a long League season and what must seem an even longer and more arduous journey through the earlier rounds of the Champions Cup, the Spanish champions looked tired and had no answer to PSV's cleverly-concocted tactics which secured them control of an intriguing and evenly-balanced tie.

Outwitted

Even their own Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker admitted his players had been outwitted and outmanoeuvred by his countrymen on an evening when the Netherlands continued its international soccer renaissance.

"We looked jaded," he said. "We did not win. We did not play well. It was not the Real Madrid at all. I don't know why. If you play 60 or 70 games a season, then sometimes you are tired and that just happened to us tonight."

PSV's experienced Belgian defender Eric Gerets saw things rather differently. He said: "I was surprised how ordinary Real Madrid were. We expected a far



Espanol captain Diego Ovejuna (left) stops a Bruges attack in Espanol goal-mouth as goalkeeper Carlos Melendez follows the action. (Reuters wirephoto)

more difficult game and now feel very confident of reaching the final."

With holders Ajax Amsterdam enjoying a spectacular 3-0 victory away over Marseille in their Cup Winners' Cup semifinal first leg, the Netherlands could have representatives in each of the two most important European club soccer tournaments.

The success of the two Dutch

clubs also augurs well for the prospects for the national team who are among the favourites for the European championships in West Germany in June.

"Tactically, we were far superior," said Gerets after PSV had smothered Madrid's attack and played with such aplomb that Madrid, victors over Napoli, holders Porto and Bayern Munich in previous rounds, were whistled off the

pitch by their frustrated fans. "We had Berry van Aerle marking Butragueno because he is small and quick and it worked. We played to defend in blocks and that worked and we also found plenty of room to attack."

Even the impetus of a questionable sixth-minute penalty won and converted by Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez failed to lift Madrid and it was no surprise when midfielder Edward Linskens equalised in the 20th minute. Linskens, 18, a local Eindhoven boy with barely a handful of first-team appearances behind him, was an unexpected inclusion in the PSV team, but showed no sign of nerves as he controlled Frank Arnesen's angled pass and scored.

Ronald Koeman, an impressive libero, and the non-stop Danish midfielder Soren Lerby saw to it that Madrid were allowed no further opportunities to enhance their chances of survival in Eindhoven on April 20.

In the second European Cup semifinal, Madrid's old Iberian rivals Benfica, twice winners of the trophy in the early 1960s, held 1986 winners Steaua Bucharest to a goalless draw in Romania.

The Portuguese team should have few problems in clinching

their place in the final in Stuttgart on May 25 and so emulating the achievement of their domestic rivals Porto, who won it last year, when they face the Romanians in Lisbon.

Ajax's triumph in the Cup Winners' Cup was unexpectedly impressive with goals from Rob Witschge after 12 and 42 minutes setting up a convincing win. Denis Bergkamp added the third two minutes from time.

In the final in Strasbourg, Ajax are likely to face Italian opposition as Atalanta, seeking to become the first Second Division club to win a European trophy, lost only 2-1 in Belgium to Mechelen.

Protection

Eli Ohana opened the scoring for Mechelen, but Swedish midfielder Glenn Strömberg quickly equalised and Dutchman Piet den Boer's 83rd minute winner may not prove sufficient protection in the return leg.

In the UEFA Cup, Bruges of Belgium beat Espanol of Barcelona 2-0 and Bayer Leverkusen beat Werder Bremen 1-0 in the other all-West German affair.

Bayer are now unbeaten in their 13 matches in European competition, breaking the record set by Spain's Valencia who were unbeaten in their first 12 matches from 1962.



Navratilova: had to wait for her match

Navratilova crushes Paz for quarterfinals

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 8, (Reuters): Top seed Martina Navratilova overcame heavy winds, a delay caused by vandalism and Argentine Mercedes Paz at the \$300,000 tournament here yesterday.

Tournament officials arrived early yesterday to find the lines, which are secured to the clay court with spikes, and the net posts torn out and thrown into the stands.

It took two hours to repair the centre court damage, a shocking scene in this exclusive South Carolina island resort.

After the delay, Navratilova dominated Paz 6-3 6-2, despite winds that played havoc with her shots, to reach the quarterfinal round where she will face eighth-seeded Italian Raffaella Reggi, a 7-6-3 winner over Elena Reinach of South Africa.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and third seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria also reached the quarterfinals with easy straight set victories.

Fourth-seeded West German

Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, however, became the highest seed to fall so far when she lost to unseeded Helen Klesi of Canada 6-4 7-5.

Sabatini outplayed Wiltrud Probst of West Germany 6-4 6-1 and Maleeva had an even easier time in ousting 10th seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-1 6-1 in just over an hour.

Against the 98th-ranked Paz, Navratilova, second in the world, patiently rallied from the baseline and waited for chances to approach the net.

"It was hard because of the wind. I don't like it because it's a great equaliser. You can't be precise when it's windy. You have to hit a lot of balls and wait for an opportunity to come in," said Navratilova.

Paz broke Navratilova in the first game of the match and took a 3-1 lead before the top seed found her rhythm.

Navratilova then swept eight consecutive games to win the first set and take a 3-0 lead into the second set, in which she dropped only one point on her serve.

Lean Ar Aghaidh favoured to score victory at Aintree

LIVERPOOL, England, April 8, (Reuters): Stable jacks call him Lean Ar Aghaidh and to add the confusion it is pronounced Lanna Rye.

But whatever the name, there is no denying he has a first-rate chance tomorrow of winning one of the world's great races, the Aintree Grand National.

Backed

Third last year after a breathtaking display of jumping, Lean Ar Aghaidh (the words are a Gaelic war cry), has been backed to 8-1 favourite for the annual spectacular.

The 11-year-old took to the daunting Aintree obstacles last year in flashing style and led over the final fence, only to be deprived of victory by Maori Venture and the Tsarevich.

With that experience behind him, the forecast of the good,

fatish ground that he prefers and regular jockey Guv Landau recovered from injury means that Lean Ar Aghaidh has plenty in his favour.

Fairly weighted with 154 pounds, the gelding proved he had kept his form with a good second to Rhyme 'n' Reason on his only outing this season in February.

Rhyme 'n' Reason is inclined to make the occasional jumping mistake and is untried round the 30 obstacles that make up the Aintree test.

Mayotte overcomes De la Pena

CHICAGO, April 8, (AP): Second-seeded Tim Mayotte defeated Argentinian Davis Cupper Horacio de la Pena 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in second-round action at the \$315,000 Volvo Chicago Tennis Championships yesterday.

Mayotte, the tournament's defending champion, broke the world's 101st-rated player in the fourth game of the final set and went on to capture the match.

Eighth-seeded Paul Annacone won the right to play top-seeded Jimmy Connors in the quarterfinals by defeating Jim Grabb, 6-3, 6-4.

Annacone broke Grabb back in the seventh game while holding serve in the eighth game and came back to break Grabb in the ninth game.

After Grabb had taken an advantage in the 10th game, Grabb hit two straight returns into the net and then Annacone won the match with an ace.

Earlier, three of the top seeds, Eliot Teltscher, seeded fourth, Christo van Rensburg, fifth, and Ramesh Krishnan, sixth, were eliminated.

Seventh-seeded Dan Goldie, who faces Mayotte in one of four quarterfinal ties, defeated Jim Fugh, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

John Ross, rated 96th in the world, knocked out Teltscher, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. Van Rensburg was upset by fellow South African, Gary Muller, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2. And Krishnan was defeated by Scott Davis, 5-7, 7-6(7-1), 6-4.

Mayotte, ranked ninth in the world, had coasted in the opening set, breaking De la Pena in each of the first and third games.

But De la Pena's booming service took charge in the second set as the 5-11 Argentinian lost just three points of five service games.

Unforced

By the fourth game of the third set, De la Pena appeared to grow weary, losing his service as he made five unforced errors.

Mayotte was forced to go to deuce point five times in the seventh game before finishing off De la Pena with his fifth ace.

Mayotte then closed out the match winning points, two on winners and two on unforced errors.

Ross, who has never won a major tournament in three years of pro competition and has just one runner-up finish, sent the world's 31st best player to defeat with a combination of excellent lobs and drop shots.

After Teltscher had squared the third set at four games each by breaking Ross's serve in a 14-point eighth game, Ross came back to win the ninth game, breaking Teltscher back in a 16-point marathon to go up 5-4.

With Ross serving in the 10th game and the game tied at deuce for the third time, Ross scored with a winner and closed out the match when Teltscher hit a return out of bounds.

Carter takes Mets to win over Expos

NEW YORK, April 8, (AP): Gary Carter is getting older. Maybe he's getting better, too. Carter, who turned 34 today, celebrated early by hitting two solo home runs last night as the New York Mets beat the Montreal Expos 8-5.

The Mets are hoping this will be a good year for Carter, a 10-time all-star who slumped to .235 last season. Manager Davey Johnson plans to give his catcher plenty of rest: Carter, who also threw out Mitch Webster trying to steal may make that decision difficult if he continues playing well.

Meanwhile, Darryl Strawberry continued hitting, connecting for his National League-leading third home run of the season. Strawberry usually does well against Montreal — .309 in his career.

But Carter, traded by Montreal to the Mets after the 1983 season, has never fared well against his ex-team, especially at Olympic stadium. He began this season with a .216 career average against the Expos, his lowest against any club.

"I probably have been pressing when I came here in the past," Carter said. "When you hear the catcalls, you want to do well."

"But I'm not thinking about it anymore. Besides, this is my fourth year in New York, and my time here (in Montreal) is in the past."

Carter homered in the third inning against Neal Heaton, 0-1, for a 4-2 lead.

Strawberry's two-run homer chased Heaton in the fifth and Carter followed with a home run against Andy McGaffigan. Carter has 28 multi-home games in his career.

| Results | | |
|------------------|----|--------------|
| National League | | |
| Cincinnati | 8 | St. Louis 1 |
| New York | 8 | Montreal 2 |
| Los Angeles D. | 5 | Atlanta 5 |
| San Francisco G. | 6 | San Diego 1 |
| American League | | |
| Detroit | 11 | Boston Red 6 |
| Chicago | 2 | California 1 |
| Kansas City | 7 | Toronto 4 |
| Cleveland | 4 | Texas 1 |

Wilkins helps Atlanta rout New Jersey

ATLANTA, April 8, (AP): Dominique Wilkins scored 14 of his 18 points in the second quarter as the Atlanta Hawks beat the New Jersey Nets 120-94 last night and moved into one-half game of first-place Detroit in the NBA's Central Division.

After a close first 18 minutes, the Hawks outscored New Jersey 24-9 over the last half of the second period to take a 62-43 halftime lead and coasted to their seventh consecutive victory. New Jersey, which lost its eight straight, could get no closer than 17 points in the second half.

Randy Wittman and Kevin Willis also scored 18 points for Atlanta while Tim McCormick had 23 for New Jersey.

Rockets 113, Jazz 107

Akeem Olatunji scored 22 points, leading seven Houston players in double figures, and grabbed 15 rebounds as the Rockets held off Utah's fourth-quarter rally.

The Rockets led by 14 points late in the third period but the Jazz cut it to 107-104 with 1:06 left in the game on a basket by Thurl Bailey. A stuff shot by Rodney McCray and four free throws by Purvis Short preserved Houston's victory and gave the third-place Rockets 3 and 1-2 games over Utah in the Midwest Division.

Clough nervous before semifinal

LONDON, April 8, (Reuters): Even self-assured Brian Clough admits he is nervous about the task facing his young Nottingham Forest side in their English FA Cup semifinal against Liverpool tomorrow.

"If you have to play the best side in the League in the Cup semifinal, there is bound to be some trepidation," the Forest manager admitted.

Test

"Six or seven of my young players have never played in this stage of the competition, so it will be a new experience for them. They will be going into a previously uncharted area and it will be a test both mentally and physically for them."

But Forest do have the important psychological boost of having beaten the runaway League leaders 2-1 last Saturday, only the second League defeat Liverpool have suffered this season.

In the second semifinal, both

Gould's main concern is striker John Fashanu, scorer of 20 goals this season, who injured a hamstring in a midweek match.

"He has responded to treatment and we have not written him off," was all Gould would say.

His problems were compounded by a ligament injury which could also sideline a second striker, Terry Gibson.

Should Fashanu not be fit, an unexpected chance to return to the limelight will go to 32-year-old Dave Swindlehurst who signed on a non-contract basis only last month after a period playing in Cyprus.

"If I play on Saturday it would be like a fairy tale and I'm confident I wouldn't let anyone down," Swindlehurst said.

Luton seem certain to be without goalkeeper Les Sealey and his place will go to Andy Dibble who has made only one first team appearance this season.

Sealey has recovered from the concussion suffered in a midweek match but he will probably be ruled out by a shoulder injury he collected in the same incident.

There could be added tension during the match for Wimbledon captain and goalkeeper Dave Beasant.

His wife, Sandra, is almost a week late in giving birth to their second child but she is determined to be at Tottenham's White Hart Lane ground tomorrow.

"Obviously I'm a little worried the excitement could bring on the birth," Beasant said.

It was reported that Liverpool and Forest will subsidise Luton and Wimbledon to the tune of around £30,000 pounds (\$56,000) each.

Half

Under Football Association rules, Liverpool and Forest must pool their proceeds from a 54,000 sell-out at Sheffield with the takings from the other tie at Tottenham's White Hart Lane ground.

And the signs are that Luton against Wimbledon will attract only half the gate of the main semifinal attraction.

The total gate receipts are divided equally among the four

Schwantz going for second win

MONTEREY, Calif., April 8, (Reuters): Young Texan Kevin Schwantz, surprise winner two weeks ago in only his seventh motorcycle Grand Prix, will have the added boost of local support in the season's second 500cc race on Sunday.

The crowd are bound to be strongly behind the 23-year-old Suzuki rider as he strives for another win over world 500cc champion Wayne Gardner in the first motorcycle Grand Prix to be held in the United States for 23 years.

Gardner, on a Honda, finished second more than eight seconds behind Schwantz in the season's opening event in Suzuka, Japan, with former champion Eddie Lawson of the United States well back in third place on a Yamaha.

The current champion admitted to being very impressed by the style of his young adversary. "He rides very hard, as I found out in the race," he said.

"I think if my bike had been going as well in the race as it had in practice I would have beaten

him, but racing is all about what happens on the day. I look forward to our next battle on his home patch."

The Laguna Seca raceway circuit, located on the outskirts of this resort community 200 kms south of San Francisco, was expanded recently to meet specifications set by the International Motorcycling Federation.

The 40-lap, 141.40-km race now includes an infield loop measuring 3.5 kms and has 11 turns.

Imran refuses to play against Australia

GEORGETOWN, April 8, (Reuters): West Indies' emphatic nine-wicket defeat by Pakistan in the first Test in Georgetown means their record since November 1986 reads three wins, four draws and four defeats.

With New Zealand, India and Pakistan, on two occasions, all registering wins over West Indies in the past 18 months albeit in drawn series — it is possible the era of Caribbean domination of world cricket has ended.

Even team manager Jacky Hendriks admitted: "We had a heck of a long run of really great fast bowlers, but now we have a new crop."

"At the beginning of that era in the mid 1970s we had to wait a while before we really started to win. Maybe now we have to go through a few hiccups like this one in Georgetown."

Direction

"Going into this Test we had a young inexperienced attack which bowled well for periods, but not consistently well enough. We lost direction, bowled a little too short or bowled down the leg side to often."

Referring to the extraordinary total of 54 no-balls bowled by the West Indies in Pakistan's first innings, Hendriks went on: "It was terribly disappointing and also a great surprise. I thought we had cured that problem."

"It was a lot of wasted effort to have Javed Miandad caught off a no-ball on 27 and then make a 100."

Hendriks also felt the one-day series between the two sides had not helped the West Indies. "We went into the game with very high hopes and with a lot of con-

fidence. But we were not over confident or complacent despite our 5-0 one-day win."

Hendriks said he thought Vivian Richards would be fit for the second Test in Port of Spain, starting on April 14, but was less sure about Malcolm Marshall.

"Without Viv and Malcolm it's tantamount to saying Pakistan without Javed and Imran Khan. Obviously we missed them, but I don't want to use their absence as an excuse. Basically we made a lot of errors, batting and bowling."

Intikhab Alam, Pakistan's manager, was full of praise for his team's "remarkable performance" but questioned the West Indies team choice. "Our selection was according to the wicket — we thought it would turn and the bounce would be low. Probably the West Indies selected their side without looking at the wicket."

Intikhab pinpointed Imran's and Javed's performances as magnificent. "It's really something else that Imran had a lay off for three months, when he didn't do anything, and was able to come back so strongly."

"He went through hell to get back to fitness. We were very worried about his infected toe after his seven for 80 in the first innings. He was on a heavy dose of antibiotics and pain-killers in the second innings."

Imran, named Man of the Match for his haul of 11 wickets for 121, has now taken 322 wickets in 71 Tests.

Intikhab also spoke of his team's resilience in coming back from a 5-0 thrashing in the one-day series.

W. Indies' domination of cricket at an end



Imran: criticises Australia's tour of Pakistan

"We showed great character when we batted and had to graft very hard for our sizeable and crucial first innings lead. The West Indian batsmen, on the other hand, lacked application and missed Viv Richards desperately," said Intikhab.

"The West Indies were guilty of over-confidence, I think, after the one-day games."

Imran warned his own team against complacency. "We know the rest of the series will be very hard. The West Indies are a strong team and will be desperately keen to square the series

Millar triumphs in three events

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 8, (Reuters): Ian Millar, a 41-year-old Canadian, rode Big Ben to victory in the first of the three events at the World Cup Show Jumping finals yesterday.

Millar clocked 33.03 seconds over the 12 obstacles on the 375 metre course to win by 0.15 of a second from compatriot Laura Tidball-Ballisky on Quarts.

While Britain's major hope, John Whitaker, finished way down the list, his compatriot Liz Edgar was third on Everest Rapier.

January just to play in the one-day World Series Cup with West Indies.

"I've already told my board I'm unavailable for the Australian tour to our country. And if there are no Tests for us in Australia I will retire after this tour," Imran said.

"If we win here we become the world's number one team. Then, if a Test tour to Australia is not on, I'll just fade out."

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) officials, however, confirmed Pakistan's appearances next year would be in the World Cup.

Imran was persuaded by Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq to rescind an earlier decision to retire and captain the team to the West Indies.

Imran called the Australian tour of Pakistan "an exercise in futility."

"It's in our off-season just after the monsoon. It's ridiculous. The heat and humidity will be unbearable," he said.

Useless

"The wickets will be dead. The fast bowlers will be useless. It will be a spinners' game and a waste of everyone's time."

Imran added: "The Australians will hate the tour. They'll go around cursing Pakistan and our umpires and players, just like Kim Hughes's team did in 1982. It will be terrible publicity for Pakistan again."

England's recent tour of Pakistan was nearly cut short after repeated clashes between England players and the Pakistani umpires. The Australian tour comprises three Tests and three or four one-day internationals.



KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & PETROLEUM
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Mechanical Engineering and Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science have great pleasure to invite you for a lecture on:

"Mechanical Engineering in the Service of Humanity"

Speaker:
Professor Dr. Ali Seireg
(Winner of Kuwait Prize in Mechanical Engineering for the year 1987)
Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Time:
April 10, 1988, Sunday 11 am - 12 noon

Place:
College of Engineering & Petroleum,
Room No. 109, Building No. 2 K.H.,
Khaldiya.



KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
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The University of Kuwait seeks a qualified Architect-Interior Designer familiar with campus planning for its Office of Institutional Planning. Design Architect is to provide technical and design assistance and work closely with all other sections and departments to incorporate their requirements. In addition, he will make periodic visits to the sites, answer all related site queries, check shop drawings and inspect samples for approval. He will report directly to the Assistant Vice-Rector for Physical Facilities Planning.

The candidate must have 7-10 years of experience, should have good command of both English and Arabic languages and must be affiliated to a recognised professional body in his respective field. The Contract will be on annual renewable basis which will include, among other benefits, a salary commensurate with experience and educational background, and annual leave of 30 days.

Candidates should include their handwritten Curriculum Vitae plus three references with their application and submit to:

The Vice-Rector for Planning
Reg: "Architect - Interior Designer"
University of Kuwait
P.O. Box 5999
P.C. 13060 - Safat Kuwait

Applications must be received by the University no later than 12 noon, April 27, 1988.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

ICC tourney

AMSTERDAM, April 8. (Reuters): The Netherlands have bid for the 1990 International Cricket Conference (ICC) tournament, Dutch Cricket Association press officer Jos Jochimsen said today.

Juventus beaten

ROME, April 8. (Reuters): Juventus, the fallen giants of European soccer, suffered further embarrassment on Wednesday when they crashed 2-0 to city rivals Torino in the first-leg semifinal of the Italian Cup.

Football coach

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, April 8. (AP): A sports official of the United Arab Emirates yesterday expressed his country's unhappiness about Saudi Arabia's hiring of the UAE national football coach, Brazilian Carlos Alberto, for an annual contract worth more than half a million dollars.

Brazil coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 8. (Reuters): Brazil's new national team coach will be named in May. Football Association (CBF) president Octavio Pinto Guimarães said yesterday.

\$1m offer

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 8. (Reuters): Brazilian soccer team Fluminense will offer former Argentina national coach Cesar Luis Menotti an 18-month contract worth \$1 million, club president Fahio Egypto said yesterday.

Penarol win

MONTEVIDEO, April 8. (Reuters): South American soccer champions Penarol of Uruguay made a winning start in the newly-created Super Cup when they beat Argentinos Juniors 1-0 at home in Wednesday's first round first-leg.

Olympics chief

OVIEDO, Spain, April 8. (Reuters): Olympics President Juan Samaranch was named today as winner of Spain's Prince of Asturias Prize for sports in 1988.

John Toshack

SANSEBASTIAN, Spain, April 8. (Reuters): Former Welsh soccer international John Toshack is to extend his contract as coach of Spanish title contenders Real Sociedad until 1991, club director Inaki Otegui said today.

\$28m contract

CHICAGO, April 8. (AP): Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls have reached an agreement on a new contract that will pay him \$28 million over eight years, making him the highest paid player in sports, according to a published report.

Charity race

LONDON, April 8. (Reuters): Runners began registering yesterday for the 1988 'Race against Time' as its organisers said they hoped over 20 million people worldwide would run to raise money to stop children dying of hunger, poverty and disease.

Bulgarian striker

ZARAGOZA, Spain, April 8. (Reuters): Nasko Sirakov, one of Bulgaria's top strikers, has joined Spanish side Real Zaragoza for three seasons at a cost of \$900,000, the club said today.

Stadium stampede

KATHMANDU, April 8. (Reuters): Two former prime ministers and other prominent politicians said yesterday the Nepalese government should accept moral responsibility for the football stadium stampede in which 70 people were killed.

Title fight

TOKYO, April 8. (Reuters): Chang Jung-Koo of South Korea will defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight title against Japan's Hideyuki Ohashi in Tokyo on June 27, the Japan Boxing Commission said today.

Canadian boxer

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, April 8. (Reuters): Canadian World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion Donny Lalonde will defend his title against Trinidad's Leslie 'Tiger' Stewart there on May 29, promoters said on Wednesday.

Soviets on verge of professional sport

MOSCOW, April 8. (Reuters): Soviet sportsmen will soon be able to turn professional under new regulations to be adopted later this month, a senior sports official said.

Vyacheslav Kolosov, head of the sports committee's soccer and ice hockey board, told a Soviet newspaper the rules would apply first to soccer and ice hockey and later to other sports in the Soviet Union, where sport is technically amateur.

MALAYSIA SWEEP ASIDE PAKISTAN

Kuwait edge Japan in Cup qualifier

KUALA LUMPUR, April 8. (Agencies): A goal shortly before halftime by Salah Al Hasawi was sufficient to give Kuwait a 1-0 victory over Japan on the second day of the Asian Cup soccer qualifying round today.

Kuwait dominated the early stages but were unable to convert their superiority into points until the 41st minute when Al Hasawi blasted the ball past goalkeeper Masamori Sanada.

Japan rallied after the break but Osamu Maeda fired wide and Masadhi Nakayama lifted the ball over the bar twice.

In the 72nd minute, Japan's Naeto Otake brought down Tariq Salim in the penalty area but Waleed Al Mubarak's kick was well saved by Sanada.

Both teams played well right from the beginning although the ground was wet due to heavy rainfall about four hours before the game started.

Kuwait, trained by Brazilian coach Miguel Pereira, mounted various raids but poor finishing deprived them of more goals.

In the 18th minute, Salah failed to connect a Nawaf Al Anezi pass while in the 25th minute, Nawaf's kick did not find the target.

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, told Kuna immediately after the match that he was fully satisfied with the "fighting spirit" shown by his players.

Sheikh Fahd was particularly happy that his team could play well on a wet ground.

"Our team played very well tonight... their early arrival here for training session had helped them a lot," he said.

Yesterday Malaysia defeated underdog Pakistan 4-0 in the opening match.

All the goals came in the second half. Bakar Daud, Malaysian team manager and vice-president of the Football Association of Malaysia, said his team would have to play better to defeat Japan in their match on Monday.

Radhi Mat Din drew cheers from the 15,000 spectators when he scored the first goal in the 49th minute past Pakistani goalkeeper Malik Mateen.

In the 78th minute, Zainal Abidin Hassan collected the ball in midfield, made a solo run past a few defenders and slotted the ball in to make it 2-0.

Zainal scored again three minutes later when he converted a penalty kick awarded after Dollah Salleh was tripped inside the box by Pakistani Fida-ur-Rahman.

Malaysia's final goal came when Dollah headed the ball in from close range in the 84th minute.

Meanwhile, Iraq criticised the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) after a leading AFC official called for Baghdad's soccer squad to be barred from the Olympic Games.

"Iraq had always respected the rules of the International Football Federation (Fifa) and strived to implement them in the best possible way," a spokesman for the Iraqi Football Association told Reuters.

The AFC is angry at Iraq's decision to pull out of a qualifying tournament for Asia's premier soccer trophy, the Asian Cup, in a row over the fixture list.

The Iraqi spokesman said Baghdad has always been in the forefront of those competing in Asian tournaments according to Fifa rules.



Al Hasawi: got the winner

Nelson and Wrenn share Masters lead

AUGUSTA, April 8. (Reuters): Veteran Larry Nelson and rookie Robert Wrenn shared the lead on the opening day of the 1988 Masters tournament yesterday by somehow surviving strong winds that frustrated most of the world's best players.

"I got off to a reasonably good start and then held on," Nelson, the winner of last year's American PGA Championship, said after making his best start in the Masters.

"I didn't do anything dumb," the 40-year-old Nelson, who also won the 1981 PGA Championship and the 1983 US Open, said in trying to explain how he survived a day of strong winds which kept all but nine of the 90 players above par.

Nelson and Wrenn held a two-stroke lead over Bernhard Langer of West Germany, Sandy Lyle of Britain and Americans Mark Calcavecchia and Dan Pooley, the only other players to beat par.

"I'm certainly happy with one

over par," said Langer, the 1985 Masters champion, who was playing with a bad back.

"I could have shot 74 or 75 but things went well for me and I shot 71," added Langer.

"Seventy-one is a good start. I'm very pleased with it," said Lyle, who has won two US tournaments already this year and was off to his best start in seven Masters.

Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw, two former Masters champions, were tied at even-par 72 with fellow American Gary Koch, who was tied for the lead until he made a triple bogey seven on the final hole.

"Needless to say, it was very, very difficult out there today," Watson, a winner of five British Opens, two Masters and a US Open, said. "I misjudged several shots today."

Seve Ballesteros of Spain, who made a strong bid for the lead until he four-putted the 16th hole for a double bogey, was among eight players tied at 73.

That Group also included

David Frost of South Africa and Ken Brown of Britain.

"Making four putts can happen to anyone," the seemingly blasé Ballesteros said. "Unfortunately it happened to me today."

Ballesteros, a two-time Masters champion, was not worried about his four putts on the 170-yard par 3, where he put his tee shot 35 feet from the hole.

"I four-putted at Majorca this year and still won the tournament," he said.

Account

Ballesteros, one of the strong favourites to win this tournament, said the wind did not bother him putting — "That would be an excuse" — but several other players said it was factor on the greens.

No less an expert than Jack Nicklaus, whose six Masters titles are two more than anyone else, said that on several greens he took the wind into account when lining up his putts.

Baker-Finch fires 68 for Open lead

DAIWACHO, Japan, April 8. (AP): Ian Baker-Finch of Australia fired a 3-under-par 68, the best score of the second round, to take the lead today halfway through the \$320,000 Pocari Sweat Open golf tournament.

Baker-Finch started the second round five strokes off the lead and survived heavy winds, shooting one birdie and one bogey on the front nine of the 6,780-yard, par-71 Hakuryuko Country Club in western Japan.

He rallied on the back nine, scoring consecutive birdies on the 11th and 12th holes before carding a birdie on the 17th.

Seiki Okuda shot a 70 and Australian Graham Marsh a 71 for 142 to share second place.

Hideki Kase was alone in fourth place at 143 after shooting a 70.

First round co-leader Craig Parry of Australia shot 76 for 144 and dropped into a fifth place tie with compatriot Brian Jones.

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All Star close to Kuwait Little League season

By Gail Seery

KUWAIT'S Little League baseball year came to an end yesterday. During the day, two matches were held, between two All Star Little League teams, and between two teams made up of all players in the T-Ball league. In the Little League game, the East team, coached by Lee Ehret, beat the West team, coached by Bob Stucker, by 10 runs to 5.

In the T-Ball game the East team beat the West team by 15 runs to 9. The East team was made up from members of the UAS and BTC teams, and was coached by Dale Koch and Scott Nelson. The West team was made up from members of the Al Julaiah and Mustafa Majed teams, and was coached by John Brinning and Latif Hamdan.

The US Ambassador to Kuwait, Nathaniel Howell opened the Little League game, posed for photographs with the teams and threw the opening balls. The Embassy is a strong supporter of the League, along with several local companies.

Awards were presented for the most valuable players in each team. For the Al Julaiah team the Most Valuable Player was Haitham Rijab. Runners-up were Tarek Hamdan and Patrick Kalis.

For the UAS team the most valuable player was Majeed Jamshidi. Runners-up were Mahmood Mokhtar and Amir Gul.

For the BTC team the Most

Valuable Player was Billy Ray Patterson. Runners-up were Jonathan Zeplin and Jamal Abdul.

For the Mustafa Majed team the most valuable player was Lucas Runte. Runners up were Ridha Behbehani and Ali Qallari.

In the Little League, the Ambassadors team's most Valuable Player was Erik Fox. Most Valuable Player for Computhink was Brian Cox. Santa Fe International's Most Valuable Player was Thari El-Ebrahim. The Most Valuable Player for Santa Fe Braun was Jason Zeplin. For the Getty team the Most Valuable Player was Robby Bhatia and for the Dressar Magcobar the Most Valuable Player was Makoto Imai.

The president of the league, Suleiman Sakleh stressed that as far as the league was concerned all its players were champions, and looked forward to the coming season, due to start in September. The League has two categories catering to different age groups. The T-Ball is for the youngest age group, with Little League being aimed at players between the ages of 9 and 12.

Outgoing President of the League, Harry Zeplin explained that the 160 children involved were of all nationalities, and that anyone interested in playing was most welcome to join. Next season the League hopes to add a senior league for 13 to 15 year olds.

A full account of the day will be printed in Tuesday's Junior Times.



The US ambassador throws the opening ball.



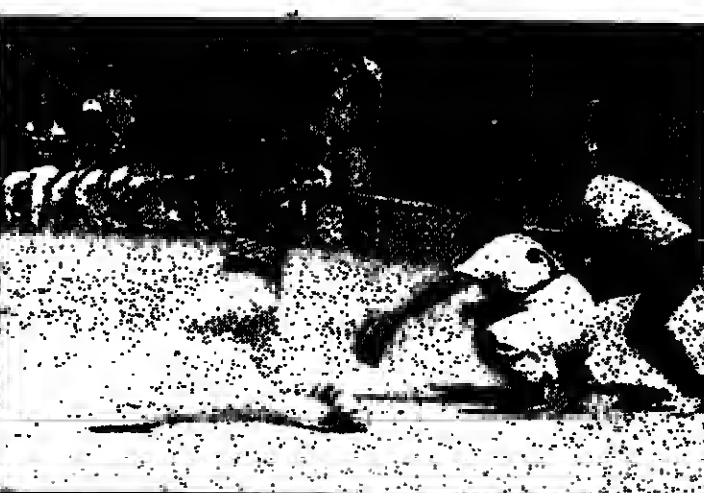
A BTC-pitcher in action.



A T-Ball player scrambles for a run.



The Ambassadors: won the Little League title.



A West team batter hits the ball.



League secretary Rose Navarro presents a Most Valuable Player award.

Becker and Jelen overcome Danes

FRANKFURT, West Germany, April 8. (Reuters): Boris Becker put West Germany on the road towards the semifinals of the Davis Cup with a 7-5 6-4 6-3 victory over Michael Tauson of Denmark today in a world group second round tennis tie.

Becker's win, which gave West Germany a 2-0 lead over the Danes after the first day, followed Eric Jelen's 6-3 6-3 3-6 6-2 victory over Morten Christensen.

The tall, powerful Tauson, who upset Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal in the last round to lead Denmark to a shock win over Spain, stretched Becker far more than could be expected from a man ranked only 401 in the world.

He produced 10 aces and his thunderbolt service kept the former Wimbledon champion, ranked four in the world, under pressure. Becker was only able to break four times in the match.

But Becker was serving well himself, as his 15 aces showed, and never looked likely to let Tauson get on top of the match. "I knew he had a very good serve and that he would be a dangerous player who would go for his shots on this fast surface," Becker said.

Becker, whose triumph over Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the WCT tournament final in Dallas last week indicated he has returned to peak form after an indifferent 1987, was happy with his game.

"Since I got over my knee injury, I feel I'm playing better, he said. "I'm faster, my volley is better and my service has improved a bit too."

Becker teams up with Jelen in tomorrow's doubles which should give West Germany the third point they need to advance to a home semifinal with either Italy or Yugoslavia.

Jelen played superbly in the opening two sets against Christensen, before finding himself troubled by the Dane's big serve in the third. Christensen dropped just two points on serve in that set.

But the world number 40 got back into his stride to wrap up the match in two hours 11 minutes, taking only six minutes longer for victory than Becker.

In Norrköping, Sweden, Stefan Edberg (Sweden) beat Tomas Smid (Czechoslovakia) 6-3 6-4 6-3 in the opening singles of the Davis Cup world group quarterfinal tennis tie.

In Belgrade, Paolo Cane (Italy) beat Bruno Oresar (Yugoslavia) 6-1 6-1 6-3 in the opening singles of the Davis Cup quarterfinal tie.

In Clermont-Ferrand, France, Yannick Noah (France) beat Darren Cahill (Australia) 3-6 6-4 6-6 6-2 in the opening singles.

Ramy keeps Egypt on top

HELPED by a brilliant round of 73 by the Arab world's star amateur player, Mohammed Ramy Taher, Egypt yesterday took a commanding lead on the second day of the Arab Golf Championship at the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai.

Ramy, who found his best form after a disappointing 82 on Thursday, could do little wrong on this par-72 grass championship course that provided a solid test of ability.

By far the most consistent team in the ten-nation tournament, Egypt's top three players all returned scores in the seventies — Amar Abdel Halim's 76 and Maher Wahib Guirgis's 79 complimenting Taher's formidable target. Together, they increased Egypt's overall advantage from four strokes to 15 and only a last day calamity will prevent them from taking the championship.

Championship positions after two days:

Egypt 467, Bahrain 482, Lebanon 492, Algeria 510, Palestine 514, Qatar 516, Saudi Arabia 523, Oman 541, UAE 552, Kuwait 571.

Leading individual gross scores:

154 — Amr Abdel Halim Abo El Ela (Egypt) 78, 76, 155 — Marwan Mowaffak el Mustakim (Palestine) 80, 75, Mohammed Ramy Taher (Egypt) 82, 73, 159 — Abdullah Sultan Saleh (Bahrain) 82, 77, 160 — Diyab Saqar Al Noaimi (Bahrain) 81, 79, 161 — Sheikh Mousse Said El Zein (Lebanon) 75, 86, 162 — Maher Wahib (Guirgis) (Egypt) 83, 79, 163 — Djia Ahmed Abdullah (Bahrain) 84, 79, Marwan Hassan El Geddawi (Egypt) 79, 84.

Tyson-Spinks fight sets revenue record

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., April 8. (Reuters): The world heavyweight title bout between Mike Tyson and former champion Michael Spinks set for June 27 has already set boxing history's record for ticket sales, a Trump Plaza spokesman said yesterday.

Trump Plaza executive vice-president Mark Etes said that as of Tuesday, the Atlantic City Hotel had taken in more than \$7.2 million in ticket sales.

The Tyson-Spinks figures, which are sure of rise, already surpassed the previous live gate record of \$6.8 million set by the Marvelous Marvin Hagler-Sugar Ray Leonard bout last April in Las Vegas.

"It's obvious that the public want to see Tyson and Spinks and the box office numbers prove it," Etes said.

"We knew all along that this fight would be the biggest in boxing history and it already is nearly three months before the first bell," Etes added.

Olympic Games

SEOUL, South Korea, April 8. (AP): South Korea will bar attempts at political defection during the summer Olympic Games in Seoul, news reports said today.

Dutch striker

AMSTERDAM, April 8. (Reuters): French First Division club Toulon are taking Dutch international striker John Bosman to court in a bid to settle a disputed transfer deal, the player said yesterday.

Johan Cruyff

AMSTERDAM, April 8. (Reuters): Johan Cruyff said today he was likely to sign soon as manager of Spanish First Division side Barcelona.

America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, Calif., April 8. (Reuters): The San Diego Yacht Club, bolder of the America's Cup, yesterday announced their official notice of Regatta to New Zealand's Mercury Bay Boating Club, setting a September 3 start date for the races.